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IRISH UNIVERSITY PRESS SERIES

OF

British Parliamentary Papers

ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE COLONIES

1874-75

Colonies General

16

IRISH UNIVERSITY PRESS

SHANNON · IRELAND

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Irish University Press Shannon Ireland
DUBLIN CORK BELFAST LONDON NEW YORK
T M MacGlinchey Publisher
Robert Hogg Printer

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2056256

PAPERS

RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

PART II.—1874.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1874.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY W. CLOWES & SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1874.

[*C.*—1102.]—*Price* 1*s.* 2*d.*

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DOMINION OF CANADA.

No. 1.

EXTRACTS from REPORTS presented to both HOUSES of PARLIAMENT of the DOMINION of CANADA.

Immigration.

THE total number of immigrants from all parts who entered the Dominion in 1872 was 89,186. This shows a very large increase, as will appear from a perusal of the following comparative table:—

	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.
Viâ the St. Lawrence -	28,648	30,757	34,300	43,114	44,475	37,020	34,743
Viâ Suspension Bridge and Inland Ports of Ontario and Quebec	23,147	25,631	36,511	30,326	23,857	27,365	49,130
Maritime Province and other ports - -	—	1,190	637	925	687	1,337	5,313
Totals - - -	51,795	57,578	71,448	74,365	69,019	65,722	89,186

The number of immigrant arrivals by the St. Lawrence route in 1872 showed a decline as compared with 1871—a decline which has appeared for the last four years, commencing with 1869.

The subjoined statement gives the number of immigrants by the St. Lawrence route to the Port of Quebec from 1854 to 1872, inclusive:—

1854	53,180
1855	21,274
1856	22,439
1857	32,097
1858	12,810
1859	8,778
1860	10,150
1861	19,923
1862	22,176
1863	19,419
1864	19,147
1865	21,355
1866	28,648
1867	30,757
1868	34,300
1869	43,114
1870	44,475
1871	37,020
1872	34,743

While a decline appears in the number of arrivals by the St. Lawrence route, the increase in the arrivals by the Suspension Bridge

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and other ports of the Dominion is very marked. This fact does not, however, in any manner affect the question of immigration to Canada proper. It merely shows that emigration to the West has been active; and that there has been great activity on the part of the agents of the several steamship lines who have had interest to send emigrants by other than the St. Lawrence route.

There appears an increase in the arrivals at the ports of the Maritime Provinces, but the number of immigrants entering these Provinces is yet limited.

The national origins of the immigrants who landed at the port of Quebec during 1872, as compared with the two previous years, were as follows:—

	1870.	1871.	1872.
English	20,934	17,915	14,867
Irish	2,858	2,980	3,410
Scotch	3,279	3,426	4,165
German	595	9,300	764
Scandinavian	16,780	2,999	10,148
French and Belgians	—	—	1,366
Other origins	29	4,000	23
	44,475	37,020	34,743

The following statement exhibits the trades and callings of the steerage male adults who landed at Quebec during the three years 1870, 1871, and 1872:—

	1870.	1871.	1872.
Farmers	4,144	2,989	2,336
Labourers	12,248	11,465	6,189
Mechanics	1,717	1,674	6,809
Clerks and traders	146	89	79
Professional men	10	4	14
	18,265	16,221	15,427

There is no classification of national origins and trades and callings of immigrant arrivals, except at the port of Quebec.

The numbers of immigrants who passed through the Dominion and proceeded to the United States during the last seven years, as reported by the Dominion Government agents, were as follows:—

1866	41,704
1867	47,212
1868	58,683
1869	57,202
1870	44,313
1871	37,949
1872	52,608

The numbers of those reported by the Dominion agents at the several ports to have settled in Canada during the same period of seven years, were as follows:—

1866	10,091
1867	14,666
1868	12,765
1869	18,630
1870	24,706
1871	27,773
1872	36,578

The two preceding statements are those which are of chief interest in considering the question of immigration to Canada. The first shows increase in 1872 over 1871 in the number of those who passed through Canada to go to the United States; and the second shows that there was a very large increase in the numbers of those who announced to Dominion agents their intention to settle in Canada. There appears considerable fluctuation during the seven years in the numbers of those who passed through Canada for the United States. But the increase in the numbers of those who stated they intended to settle in Canada has been steady, year by year; the apparent increase in 1872 over 1871 being 8,805, or 35·34 per cent. If we make the comparison with the first of the seven years of the statement, namely, 1866, the increase is still more marked, the figures being 262·48 per cent. An increase approaching the total number in 1866.

An impression has prevailed in many quarters, and it has appeared in statements in publications, to the effect that very large numbers of immigrants come to Canada and then go on to the United States, because, after arrival, they do not find it advantageous to remain in Canada. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The fact is, that the United States was the destination of these immigrants before they embarked in Europe, and that they simply selected the St. Lawrence route as the shortest, the easiest, and the best to reach the Western States. The distance from Liverpool to New York is 3,095 miles; that from Liverpool to Quebec, by the route taken by the ocean steamers, is 2,649. The St. Lawrence route is thus 446 miles shorter, and possesses the advantage of smooth water—of inland navigation for about one-third of the whole distance. Passengers who take this route for the Western States for the most part come provided with through tickets, and they do not stop at all on their way. These persons, therefore, cannot be regarded in any way as immigrants to Canada, who, after arrival, had chosen the United States in preference; but they are simply passengers for the Western States who have chosen the St. Lawrence route.

The increase in the number of settlers in Canada appears contemporaneous with the remarkable increase of the prosperity of the Dominion since Confederation.

The remarkable increase during 1872 is in a measure attributable to the active exertions of the agents of the Dominion to make known the resources of Canada, and the advantages which it offers as a field for immigration, in the United Kingdom and on the Continent of Europe; and also to the fact that assistance was afforded to a considerable extent by the Dominion Government, by means of passenger warrants, enabling immigrants to obtain passages at 4*l.* 5*s.* sterling, instead of 6*l.* 6*s.*; children in proportion.

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A very large proportion of all the immigrants who come to this Continent are aided in some way or other. Very few of the poor labouring classes who have come, for many years past, have been able to pay the cost of passage from their own means. They have been aided by individuals, by charitable societies who collected funds from the public, by poor law guardians, and to the largest extent by remittances from friends who had emigrated before them. The amount of these ascertained remittances in 1871 from North America, as reported by Her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners, was about five million dollars; over half of which was in the form of prepaid passages. In some years the amount of these *ascertained* remittances (many were not ascertained) was more than double those in 1871. The ascertained amount from 1848 to 1871 was 17,036,799*l.* sterling.

The greater part of this large sum was sent from the United States, the stream of immigration having, in the first place, more decidedly set there; and this, coupled with the large aid in the form of advances from companies of various kinds, to be repaid from wages, is the cause of the large continued immigration to that country.

In considering the extent of the labour needs of Canada, and the actual state of immigration to this country, it is important to bear these facts in mind. The class of immigrants of whom Canada is most in need is agricultural and other labourers; and the Department of Agriculture is in possession of information which establishes the fact that unlimited numbers of these are both anxious and willing to come, but are wholly without the means to enable them to do so. The wages earned by agricultural labourers in the United Kingdom being from twelve to sixteen shillings per week, are not sufficient to enable them to support themselves, and save any surplus, particularly in the case of families.

It was in view of this state of things that the two Acts hereinbefore referred to, containing provisions to incorporate Immigration Aid Societies and to render valid contracts made out of the Dominion for advances for passage money, were passed during last Session of Parliament.

Farmers or other employers of labour in Canada can obtain the supplies of which they are in need if they will make advances of the passage money. As already stated, unlimited numbers of suitable labourers, both in the United Kingdom and on the Continent, are willing to emigrate, and to enter into engagements to repay any advances made to them for the cost of passage by savings from their wages, after arrival in Canada. And it is important for those who suffer from want of labour in this country to consider whether it is not advisable for them to make such advances. These would be taken in charge by the Dominion agents, who would carefully make selections of emigrants, and also make the necessary contracts with them. This principle was tried during the last season by the Ottawa Valley Immigration Society it was found in practice to work well, and that very little loss occurred in the advances made. It may be added that a very large proportion of the persons whom that Society assisted in the spring saved sufficient money to remit in the summer for their friends to join them in the fall. A copy of the constitution of the Society appears in the Report of Mr. Wills, the Ottawa agent.

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At the beginning of last season every indication seemed to be unfavourable to the expectation of a large immigration. There was a revival of trade and industry in the United Kingdom, and also in many parts of the Continent of Europe following the war, together with increase of wages. The agencies for promoting emigration to several of the Colonies of the Empire, to the United States, and parts of South America, were at the same time exceedingly active, while Canada was only just beginning by means of agents to enter the field. In view of these circumstances, I felt it to be my duty to state in my place in Parliament, on the occasion of asking for an appropriation for the purpose of immigration, that I did not anticipate any large result during the year 1872. I stated that I could not make any promise as to direct result from the efforts I proposed to make, and for which I asked Parliament for the means. I did not expect to be able to do more than maintain the number of the previous year of immigrant settlers in Canada. The increase of 35·34 per cent. in 1872 over 1871 may therefore be accepted as a gratifying answer to the exertions of the Department and its agents; and also to the exertions of the several Provinces.

It is probable that the exertions which have already been made and those now being made will lead to much further increase in the number of arrivals during the year 1873. But still the broad fact will undoubtedly remain that those numbers might be very much augmented, while there are many thousands of persons of the class this country most requires, who are willing and anxious to come, both in the United Kingdom and on the Continent, if they could obtain the means to do so. In fact they appeal both to the sympathies and interest of the people of Canada to enable them to come.

The Dominion agents, without the use of exaggeration, have been very active in their exertions to awaken and enlighten the people in the overcrowded countries of the old world, as to the advantages which Canada offers as a home for the intended emigrant; by pointing out its vast undeveloped resources; by showing the field it offers for agricultural and other labourers; the channels it opens for artisans, and the demands for labour that will arise from the immense public works about to be undertaken; the labour for which must come, for the most part, from beyond the seas, the Dominion not having nearly sufficient, at present, for the supply of its own ordinary wants.

They have also pointed out the existence of millions of unsettled acres of prairie lands in Manitoba and the North West territory, of the richest productive capacity,—lands which are probably more favourable for the growth of wheat in greater abundance and perfection than those of any other country in the world; and which at no distant day it is believed and hoped will become the homes of many millions of men from the old world.

The desire to emigrate having been awakened, the interest to do so clearly demonstrated, and the need for labour felt in every part of the Dominion, there comes the question of the duty of the people of Canada in the premises. It is of vast importance that they should supplement the action of the Government. The Government may do much to assist immigration; and it is its duty to use the utmost exertion within its power; but whatever is done or expended by the

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Government must be paid for by the people indirectly. I have already, through the agents of the Departments, made an appeal to the employers of labour in Canada to provide for themselves in the labour markets of the United Kingdom and the Continent of Europe the supplies they need. They can do this without much risk, and indeed without any appreciable risk, if they unite in societies. The agents of the Government, as already stated, are instructed to receive the money advanced in this country; they will make selections of the emigrants; they will make contracts with them, which are protected by law, to repay the money advanced, in labour. More can be done by this means than in any other way to enable many thousands of immigrants to reach Canada; the demands for labour will at the same time be supplied; and that in the only way in which they can be. Both parties will thus be benefited,—the employer of labour as well as the labourer; as will also the Dominion, which will contribute its quota to the arrangement.

It will be the interest of every man in Canada to consider, before the season is too far advanced, where his labour this year is to come from. It may be stated with positiveness that it cannot come from the ordinary immigration. And I have the confident hope and belief that the appeal which has been made to the farmers, manufacturers, contractors, and others, in Canada, will meet with a favourable response, and that they will advance the means, to be repaid in full, for bringing to them the labour which they require and which they cannot otherwise obtain.

Should the appeal which has been made fail to awaken that interest in the employers of labour in Canada in a great work that has been well begun, I should feel that a great opportunity had been lost to obtain a considerable influx of population, and that the efforts which have been made by the Government would be to some extent defeated, either by the apathy of the people or a too great reliance on what the Government can itself unaided do; but in either case the result would be one to be regretted.

The total expenditure in the service of immigration in 1872 was much larger than in previous years, as will appear from the following comparative statement for three years:—

	1870.	1871.	1872.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Quebec agency	31,000 30	26,263 79	36,715 62
Montreal ditto	2,839 43	3,933 73	7,965 93
Ottawa ditto	1,444 73	1,629 05	2,054 51
Kingston ditto	888 23	1,040 16	1,563 81
Toronto ditto	2,584 63	2,329 24	2,474 63
Hamilton ditto	1,152 91	1,195 40	1,167 85
Halifax, N.S., ditto	1,509 62	1,167 01	1,531 50
St. John, N.B., ditto	1,055 25	1,139 49	1,141 24
Miramichi, N.B., ditto	478 44	485 00	497 25
North-west agencies	—	1,292 20	3,203 00
General immigration contingencies, including immigration publications	—	3,051 88	17,941 47
European agencies and travelling agents	13,594 55	20,271 17	49,867 60
	$56,548 09	63,796 22	126,124 47

	1870.	1871.	1872.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Grosse Isle quarantine - - -	8,781 36	13,828 47	14,755 85
Halifax ditto - - - - - -	2,328 56	2,844 66	3,679 22
St. John, N.B., ditto - - -	3,182 22	2,251 95	3,157 26
Inspecting physicians, Quebec - -	2,600 00	2,599 99	2,599 88
	16,892 14	21,525 07	24,192 21
Total - - -	$73,440 23	85,321 28	150,316 68

A grant of $70,000 was voted at the last session of Parliament in aid of the Provinces for the encouragement of immigration, as requested by delegates from the Provinces at the Immigration Conference, held in the fall of 1871, which was distributed, under the authority of your Excellency, as follows:—

	$
To Ontario - - - - - -	25,000
„ Quebec - - - - - - -	20,000
„ New Brunswick - - - -	10,000
„ Nova Scotia - - - - -	10,000
„ British Columbia - - - -	5,000
	$70,000

The increase in expenditure appears in the items of European agencies, including salaries and expenses; and the item of general immigration contingencies, including publications. There was also considerable increase at the Quebec agency, arising from the greater number of persons to whom aid was given to proceed to points in the west of the Dominion. There was an increase of the same kind at Montreal, together with additional expenditure incident to the opening of the new immigrant station at Point St. Charles.

The amounts collected from the Capitation Tax up to the time of its repeal (July 10th) by the Act of last Session, was as follows:—

	$ c.
Montreal - - - - - -	126 00
Quebec - - - - - - -	18,311 00
St. John, N.B. - - - - -	13 00
Halifax, N.S - - - - -	348 00
Total - - - -	$18,798 00

The total amount of expenditure by the Dominion Government for affording assistance and transport to indigent immigrants was $33,873·55 against $21,112·31 in 1871.

The sums spent by the Dominion Government, both for inducing immigration and assisting immigrants on their arrival, were supplemented by considerable expenditure by the Provincial Governments. The Province of Ontario spent during the year, the sum of $57,678·14: of which $25,290·00 was in the form of refund bonus, $12,303·16 in provisions, free transports, medicines, &c., for immigrants, and $20,084·98 in other expenses.

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The Province of Quebec spent during the year $30,373·94; of which $15,722·65 was for aiding immigrants, and 14,651·29 for other disbursements. The Province of New Brunswick expended $20,594·27; of which $2,472·45 was for house building and furnishing for immigrants, $10,656·79 for passages of immigrants and expenses connected therewith, $6,428·01 for road building, chopping, &c., and $1,037·02 for miscellaneous expenses. The Province of Nova Scotia expended $3,000 in printing, establishing agencies in Europe, &c., and it has authorized an expenditure equal to $12 per head in aid of emigrants.

The combined total expenditure for the service of Immigration and Quarantine in the Dominion, including the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, in 1872 was therefore $261,963·03; namely — $111,646·35 by the Provinces, and $150,316·68 by the Dominion.

At Quebec, Montreal, and Kingston, the new immigrant stations referred to in my last Report as being erected, were opened for use during the season of 1872. A new station was also erected at Sherbrooke, for the use of immigrants distributed in the eastern townships; also one at Winnipeg, for the use of immigrants in Manitoba.

It is proposed to erect early in the coming season, so as to be available during the summer, an immigrant station at London, Ontario.

All these stations are provided with facilities to enable immigrants to wash and cleanse themselves, with facilities for cooking, and with large sleeping apartments. Provision is afforded at them, at the public charge, for absolutely indigent immigrants; and meals are afforded at very reasonable charges to others.

The agents at the several stations afford to immigrants every information within their power as to routes, and the points at which they can obtain employment; and, as a matter of fact, the immigrants who arrived during the season of 1872 were immediately distributed, the numbers of the arrivals supplying only a small portion of the demand for labour.

A circular was sent out by the Department of Agriculture inquiring, among other things, as to the number of immigrants who could find employment in different parts of the Dominion. The whole of the returns are not yet in, but those which have been furnished ask for a supply of 146,615 immigrants of various classes.* The actual number which arrived in 1872 was 36,578, from which it will appear that the whole arrivals were only sufficient for about one fourth of the demand.

As a general rule the immigrants who have come to this country do well, and many of them in a few years become comparatively independent.

The Reports of the several immigration agents furnish particulars of interest relating to the several localities.

That of Mr. Stafford, the Quebec agent, gives detail of the arrivals

* Since this Report was written subsequent returns to these circulars have been made up, from which it appears that the demand amounts to the number of 168,268; and all the returns are not in yet.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

by the St. Lawrence route, and their distribution. He generally states "the immigrants of this season have been of a good class," and that all found immediate employment at high rates of wages. Of the number that arrived at this port, 22,166 remained in Canada; and 12,577 went to the United States. He remarked that a large number of French and Belgians settled in Quebec, and expresses the belief that they will be followed by many others. He states that the new station at Point Levis has been found in every way suitable.

Mr. Donaldson, the Toronto agent, reports that the distribution of immigrants at that point was exceedingly active. He corroborates Mr. Stafford's statement respecting the good class of settlers during the year, and adds that many of them brought with them a considerable amount of capital, which was principally expended in purchasing improved farms. He states that the Reports from the settlers in the free grant districts are generally satisfactory. He distributed at his station 9,565 immigrants.

Mr. Daley, the agent at Montreal, reports that he found employment for 763 immigrants, afforded assistance to 2,050, and gave half-fare tickets to 630. He states that but a small proportion of the applications for labourers could be supplied, and that considerable numbers came to Montreal who did not pass through his office. The Province of Quebec, through its office at Montreal, distributed and found places for 2,013 immigrants who arrived during the season.

Mr. Rae, the Hamilton agent, reports the arrivals viâ the United States were 45,704 at his station, of whom 11,049 remained in Canada, having destinations in different parts of the Dominion, the remainder being passengers to the Western States.

Mr. Wills, the Ottawa agent, states that he provided for 2,105 immigrants, but that there were applications for 6,614. The arrivals were therefore inadequate for the demand. His statement shows a marked increase in the arrivals at this station. The Ottawa Valley Immigration Society advanced means to bring out 200 immigrants; and this system of advances having been found to be successful, will be continued and extended during this season.

Mr. Macpherson, the Kingston agent, states that there was a large immigration to his agency during the past year over the previous year. But the demand for all classes of immigrants (with the exception of clerks) was greatly in excess of the supply. He could have found situations for four times the number of those that arrived, and anticipates a still greater demand in the coming season. The total number of immigrants distributed at his station was 4,890.

Mr. Clay, the Halifax agent, reports the arrival of 1,432 immigrants at that port by sea. He states that there also came a considerable number of passengers from the United States, mechanics and others, who settled in the Province; but he was unable to obtain the exact number, as they did not report at his office. Of those coming by sea, there was an increase of 882 as compared with the previous year, of whom 581 remained in Nova Scotia, the remainder going on to New Brunswick.

Mr. Shives, the agent at St. John, N.B., reports that 802 immigrants settled within the limits of his agency during the year, being an increase of 106 over the previous year. The immigrants were all

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of a good class, to whom the highest rates of wages were freely given. He states that the demand for agricultural labourers, boys, girls, and artizans, has been very great, and there is every reason to believe it will be still greater during the coming season. He further states that the new Danish settlement of New Hellerup, in the county of Carleton, which was commenced last spring, appears likely to increase; and the other new settlements in the same county are in a thriving and satisfactory state.

Mr. Wilkinson, the agent at Chatham, Miramichi, N.B., reports an increase in the whole number of immigrants at his agency from all parts, as compared with the previous year. In 1871, the whole number of arrivals was 861, and in 1872, 1,177. Nine hundred and ninety-nine of the arrivals in 1872 were labourers attracted by work on the railway. Many of these have already applied for free grants of land, with the intention to settle permanently in the Province. He states that the price of labour is generally high in his agency. The want of immigrants is much felt.

Mr. McMicken, the agent at Winnipeg, reports the arrival of 1,400 immigrants at that station during the year. An immigrant station has been erected there, and found exceedingly useful to immigrants on their arrival. The agent states that henceforth there need not be any apprehensions on the ground of too numerous arrivals. Those that arrived during the last two years have made rapid progress towards comfortable settlement; and a large area of surveyed lands now being thrown open for the settler, there is ample room for all who may go. Nine hundred and fifty-four of the settlers during the last year were from the Province of Ontario, 115 from the United States, 78 from the Province of Quebec, and the remainder from other places. The population of the town of Winnipeg, Mr. McMicken reported, consisted of 1,019 males and 448 females. One hundred and twenty-four buildings have been erected, comprising residences, stores and warehouses. It is expected that the growth of this town will be rapid.

The addition of the numbers of immigrants stated by the several agents to have been distributed by them does not exactly tally with the numbers of those who announced their intention to settle in Canada. The reason is that many of the immigrants went directly to their friends, without going to the immigrant stations; and further, the Reports of the distribution do not include a large portion of those who went to the Eastern townships, or of those who settled in the district of Quebec.

Mr. John Sumner, the agent who was appointed by the Department to travel on immigrant trains, in order to see that the wants of immigrants were properly provided for, and generally to afford them information, reported the accommodation offered by the Grand Trunk Railway was on the whole satisfactory. The only exception arose from a sudden and large influx of immigrants at one time at Point Levis. But the Grand Trunk Company are providing for such emergency by increasing the stock of second-class cars. This agent saw that the immigrants were provided with suitable means at reasonable prices at the way stations.

The Reports of the various agents in the United Kingdom and on

the Continent furnish information of interest as regards the existing state of things, in relation to the prospects of immigration.

The total number of immigrants assisted by benevolent societies and individuals in 1872 was 2,435, as is shown in the Report of Mr. Stafford, Dominion Immigration Agent at Quebec. In 1871, the number was 4,590, showing a decrease last year in immigrants of this class of 2,163. The decrease is, of course, owing to the unwillingness of the public to subscribe money for the purpose of emigration in the face of revival of prosperity and absence of distress.

The following statement shows the numbers of immigrants who were assisted by the different societies and by individuals in 1872:—

British and Colonial Emigration League	101
National Emigration League	404
Rev. Mr. Fletcher	20
Mr. Shipperly (Bristol)	6
Rev. Mr. Herring	655
Rev. Mr. Oliver (Hertford)	5
Red Hill Reformatory	4
Brighton Emigration Society	79
Shoe Black Brigade	7
Cow Cross Mission	132
Miss Macpherson	433
Hon. Mrs. Hobart	266
Mr. Hogg's Institution	11
Mrs. Spottiswood (Aberdeen)	44
Risley Farm School	25
Sydenham Emigration Club	17
Feltham School	2
Home for little Boys	3
Upper Bagot Asylum	2
South Dublin Union	4
Cheltenham Reformatory	2
Rev. Mr. Hartly	2
Miss Rye	187
Middlesex Industrial School	2
Tiffield Reformatory	2
Rev. Mr. Smith	20
Total	2,435

ANNUAL REPORT of the STATE of the MILITIA for 1873.

SIR, Headquarters, Ottawa, January, 1874.

The money estimates being voted by Parliament for the fiscal year ending 30th June, and the force having been permitted to perform the drill during the current financial year at times most convenient, has militated against the efficiency of the militia service and the drill and training of the militia in a satisfactory manner.

The season most suitable for drill in camp commences about the

10th June, and ends in September. The time most suitable for a majority of the force is from the 10th June to 20th July.

The fiscal year, however, divides this period into two, and renders it impossible to furnish any Report as to the numbers of men who have drilled during such year, unless made up to the end of June; but as Parliament usually meets in February or March, such a Report on the state of the militia, being at least eight months in arrear, would not give requisite information.

I have therefore obtained from the Deputy Adjutants General of Districts, Reports relating to that portion of the drill for the fiscal year 1873–1874 completed since 1st July, 1873.

By these Reports it appears that the following numbers of officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the active militia have performed the annual drill for 1873–74:—

Military District No.	1	2,088
"	2	2,852
"	3	2,877
"	4	768
"	5	2,897
"	6	377
"	7	2,066
"	8	2,444
"	9	3,594
	Total	19,963

The remaining corps will complete the drills during the winter at their several drill-sheds, or in battalion camps, prior to the 30th June, 1874.

The General Orders relating to the drill and training of the current year, provide for the drill of companies for sixteen days at company head-quarters, on the understanding that the men will be subsisted and lodged at their homes during the days appointed for drill, or by battalions in eight-day camps, as may be found most suitable.

The Reports presented herewith will show the mode adopted by corps in the respective districts. Regarding the country companies, there seems a difficulty in their carrying on the drills in a satisfactory manner, except in cases where the periods of drills are continuous, and arrangements are made for subsistence at the place appointed for drill. The reasons are obvious—the men, as a general rule, reside at distances varying from one to eight miles from the company head-quarters, which renders the daily journey to and from the drill a serious obstacle It is therefore apparent that, as regards many of the country companies, the plan has not worked well. For drill by battalions the case is different—the men have only one journey to make coming and going, and they are subsisted and lodged on the spot; besides this, the drills performed where a number of companies are brought together creates an emulation which cannot be otherwise obtained.

Owing to the great extent of country, the diversified interests of

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the inhabitants, affected by climate and occupation, it is not easy to frame any regulation which will bear equally on all. In the west the weather is milder, with less snow in winter, and the spring work commences earlier; in the east, more particularly along the River St. Lawrence and the Atlantic coast, the commercial and shipping interests must be consulted.

These difficulties are exemplified more particularly in the cities in respect to drill. For instance, in London, Hamilton, and Toronto, the force usually turns out for sixteen days' continuous drill in camp with readiness and apparent ease; coming eastward, Kingston and Ottawa are less ready, but could send their corps into camp reduced in strength. In Montreal, Quebec, St. John, and Halifax, the shipping and other interests seem to place a barrier in the way of taking the men from their homes for drill in camps, and a preference is shown for drill on different days during the year, as circumstances may permit.

There are reasons, no doubt, why the system of voluntary service bears more heavily upon some portions of the country than upon others. The most important is, that in the newly-settled districts, the first organization of a volunteer company absorbs the whole of the volunteer element for the time being within a radius of miles from the company head-quarters, so that when the period of three years, for which these men have volunteered to serve, expires, other men cannot be found within a convenient distance, who will volunteer to fill vacancies. The consequence is, that in order to maintain these company organizations, many old volunteers continue to serve in the ranks for even four, five, or six years.

In these thinly-settled districts there will always be a difficulty in keeping up a continuous company organization by voluntary enrolment. There would, however, be no such difficulty if company head-quarters were changed from place to place, as the period of service of each set of men expired; but then the distance from the places of residence of the present officers to the new head-quarters would be such an obstacle as to prevent many from taking that active personal interest in the company indispensable to secure efficiency, and would result in an absolute necessity for cancelling commissions and the appointment of other officers who would qualify themselves and undertake the duty.

Under existing regulations, if the old officers had served the necessary period of five years in the militia, three of which have been as an officer, and the last rank held two years out of the three, to entitle them to retain their rank, they would of course do so, but where the whole period has not been completed, even although an officer had passed through a military school, and obtained a certificate of qualification, he would necessarily be deprived of rank; but if three years' service only had been completed, it would be entitled to count as the three years he is liable to serve in his turn as a militiaman.

These difficulties are understood, and will always be felt in maintaining the organization of a purely volunteer force. The remedy suggested by some of the officers is, that in all cases where a volunteer company now organized cannot be kept up to its full nominal strength by voluntary enrolment, the officers be authorized to ballot from

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the reserve for the number of men necessary to complete from time to time.

It is evident that any militia system which looks to efficiency must be so devised as to meet the question of labour, and at the same time be in accord with the spirit of the institutions of the country. It must therefore be apparent that the confederation of Provinces which had separate militia laws, and which were governed locally by different municipal regulations, renders it a matter of difficulty to perfect a uniform system for drill and training under central control, that will work equally well in all the Provinces; but considering the many difficulties and the desire of the great majority of the people to maintain an active force on the basis of voluntary enrolment, I think the groundwork of the present law admirably adapted to meet the circumstances of the country, and the provision made in it for changes in detail by regulations based on Orders in Council is well suited to remedy such defects as may be found to exist, as the work of organization goes on. The law is equally applicable for a purely volunteer force, or a force raised by conscription on the basis of each locality being required to furnish its quota—all that seems requisite is a decision as to the mode, and the necessary appropriations by parliamentary estimate to cover the cost.

Apart from the question of pay, it appears to me that in the absence of stimulating causes such as would call for the country companies being ready for military duty other than drill and training, it cannot be expected that the eagerness to volunteer which has hitherto characterized the population will continue; indeed there are indications that the nominal strength as now established in some of the districts is in the excess of the number who are inclined to volunteer for continuous service for three years as bonâ fide members of corps, thus showing that as the country is reverting to its normal condition after the excitement caused by the position of affairs since 1861, the proportion of men who are inclined to volunteer for mere drill and training is diminished. It is therefore quite certain that if this state of affairs continues, and the present nominal strength is required, provision must be made for compelling each locality, as is the practice in England, to furnish its quota of the total number, or failing that to apply the ballot.

The question as to drill and training on its own merits, resolves itself into one of expenditure as a preliminary to efficiency. If reduced estimates be insisted on, or rather, if enough money be not available for military equipment and all the incidental expenses necessary for the maintenance of the authorized strength on a satisfactory basis, over and above the amount required for pay, a corresponding diminution in the strength of the force to be drilled and trained should be made. A small force, carefully trained and well paid and cared for, is much more desirable from every point of view than a numerically large force without these requisites to efficiency.

In respect of drill for the current year, it was not intended that any brigade camp would be formed, but I may mention that in Military District No. 3, the 40th, 45th, 46th, and 57th Battalions of Infantry, and the Northumberland and Durham squadron of Cavalry, made

local arrangements and performed the eight days' drill in the same camp of exercise. In many instances a similar preference is shown for drill in brigade camps, and as regards the one now noted, the cost of extra transport over that requisite for drill in battalion camps was borne by the corps.

Respecting the pay to the officers and men, I consider that in all cases where officers are required to go into camp for drill and training, or are otherwise especially employed on militia service, it will be more satisfactory to give them the pay of their rank with such allowances as are or may be specially authorized by regulations—taking the pay of the officers of a battalion into account, the average daily pay only amounts to about $2·10, while the net pay of a lieut.-colonel is $4·87½, and that of an ensign $1·28—in either case the pay is small, but by paying each officer according to rank, it will be found that each will only receive comparative remuneration for the responsibilities devolving upon them.

Regarding the pay of the men, I do not entertain the belief that any reasonable increase in the present rate of 50 cents per diem, which is exclusive of all other necessary expenditure any man is put to, from the time he leaves his home for camp until he returns, will cover the present difficulty.

The force, as now maintained, is on the principle of voluntary enrolment pure and simple—the men join their corps for purposes of drill and training from different motives, which combine patriotism and love of the service in various degrees, and for various reasons aside from the question of pay. Such men are real volunteers, and will be found ready at all times for service; it therefore seems to me that it is only because the present nominal strength is in excess of the number of willing men in any locality, that any difficulty arises in maintaining corps up to the authorized standard.

In all cases where the labour market has to be entered for recruits, the character of the force naturally changes—at any rate in so far as this new element is required to make up the strength—the interests, feelings, and motives of the volunteer is entirely opposite to those of the men who agree to work for pay; there is therefore little doubt that in many instances a want of harmony in feeling will be found in corps whose strength requires to be recruited in this way.

Force on Service at Fort Garry.

The establishment, as reported on the 31st December, 1873, consisted of the following:—

Distribution.	Field Officers.	Staff.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Staff Sergeants.	Colour and other Sergeants.	Corporals.	Buglers.	Privates.	Horses.
Artillery ..	..	..	1	2	..	3	4	4	3	66	..
Infantry ..	1	4	4	4	4	9	16	16	5	195	3
	1	4	5	6	4	12	20	20	8	261	3

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For further information relating to this force, I respectfully refer you to the Report of Lieut.-Colonel W. O. Smith, C.M.G., Deputy Adjutant General, Military District No. 10.

During the year hut barracks have been erected at Fort Garry, and the same are now occupied by the Dominion force at that station. This measure has added much to the comfort of the men, and will prove economical as compared with previous arrangements.

Rifle Associations.

The aid given to Dominion, Provincial, and other rifle associations amounts to about $18,000 per annum; that granted to the Dominion Association is expended in prizes, and for the expenses of a team of Canadian marksmen to Wimbledon each year. The success which has attended the efforts of the Association in respect of this team, renders the object worthy of continual support and commendation. Apart from the good results to the men, and the emulation it creates amongst Canadian marksmen to be selected for the team, it has tended in a remarkable manner to make the Dominion better known throughout the whole world; and as an advertisement for emigrants is of great value.

The aid granted to provincial associations is entirely expended for prizes and expenses attending the matches.

Under the present system the local associations obtain aid direct from Government, without being compelled to affiliate with any central organization; but it appears to me that these organizations for competition in rifle shooting have attained such a position as to render the adoption of some plan on one uniform basis necessary.

Such a plan might perhaps be arranged as follows:—1st. Provide the necessary means for expenses of the Wimbledon team and contribution in aid of the Dominion Rifle Association. 2nd. Divide one-half of the remainder of the appropriation amongst the several Provincial associations according to population, and the other half amongst the several county associations in the Dominion, on the understanding that only those affiliated with the Provincial associations of their respective Provinces, and who make proper returns of matches or prize meetings, be recognized as entitled to aid. 3rd. The grant to county associations to be based on the number of competitors at matches, and upon the amount of local contributions in money, in aid of the funds of the respective associations for prizes. 4th. Returns of prize meetings from all associations receiving Government aid to be sent to the Department of Militia and Defence.

Aid to Efficient Bands.

The total sum available for this service during the past year was $7,000, and it has been divided amongst the battalions of militia who maintain bands of music; the amount paid to each ranges from $50 to $100 per annum, according to extent and efficiency of the bands. This aid, trifling as it is, has proved a great boon to the officers, and reduces to some extent the personal expenses of each, in respect of payments to the band fund of their respective corps.

Ordnance and Equipment of Field Batteries of Artillery.

The expenditure authorized under this head has been devoted during the past three years to the purchase of the new 9-pounder muzzle-loading rifled field-guns and harness, such as are being issued to the Royal Artillery. The guns are issued as received to the older field batteries of artillery, in exchange for the smooth-bore guns now in possession; and the latter are thus made available for newly organized batteries not yet equipped.

Horses for Field Batteries.

Some difficulty is experienced by commanding officers providing horses, for the allowance, and under the regulations now in force. This difficulty is not confined to any one district, but is more apparent in some districts than in others. I have therefore taken steps to communicate with these officers through the staff in the different districts, in order to ascertain the difficulties, and the suggestion each has to make in respect to his own corps.

Schools of Instruction.

The two Schools of Gunnery at Kingston and Quebec continue to afford a satisfactory means of instructing officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the artillery. These schools have been most successful since their organization, and there seems to be no difficulty in keeping the strength up to the full establishment. Seven officers and 136 non-commissioned officers and men have joined the school at Kingston, and 7 officers and 150 non-commissioned officers and men have joined the school at Quebec during the year ending 31st December, 1873.

In addition to the Schools of Gunnery at Kingston and Quebec, there are six schools of military instruction in operation under the District Staff, viz. Toronto, Kingston, Montreal, Quebec, Fredericton, and Halifax. The numbers in attendance at these latter schools are fully up to former averages, but as the schools are only maintained during the winter months I am unable to submit the exact returns until after the first June next. These schools have been most useful in imparting primary instruction to the officers of corps and candidates for commissions in the militia. It is, however, evident that they are not sufficient to supply the higher class of instruction which has become indispensable to the maintenance of the present force in a satisfactory condition; nor do they supply instruction such as is necessary for the education of those who may be required for the future military necessities of the Dominion.

The ordinary duties of an officer may be performed without special training, but the higher class of duties and the capacity for superior command can only be reached through a long course of study and preparation. It is therefore certain that some provision beyond that now existing is needed. This want might be met in two ways: 1st. By sending a number of young men to England, where suitable

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facilities are available. 2nd. By the establishment of a high-class military school in Canada.

As distance would likely prove an impediment to the first course being adopted, the second will, no doubt, commend itself as worthy of consideration. An institution at which young men could secure a superior military and scientific education would produce results alike beneficial to the Dominion and to those who join for instruction. To the Dominion it would prove a ready and economical means of providing officers whose military services could be utilized hereafter in the different districts, and to the cadet an education which would fit him for both civil and military duties, would give undoubted facilities for remunerative employment at all times.

I have &c.,

(Signed) WALKER POWELL, Lieut.-Col.,
Acting Adjutant-General of Militia, Canada.

The Minister of Militia and Defence,
&c. &c. &c.

To the Hon. ISAAC BURPEE, Minister of Customs, &c.

SIR, March 20, 1874.

In laying before you the trade and navigation Tables for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1873, as deduced from the returns of exports, imports and shipping transmitted to this Department from all the ports of entry of the Dominion, it is satisfactory to be able to state that the statistical aggregation of those returns shows a progressive increase in the trade and commerce of the country.

This fact is exhibited in the following comparative statement of the value of exports, the value of goods imported and the amount of goods entered for consumption in the Dominion of Canada during the six years following the Confederation of the Provinces:—

	Total Exports.	Total Imports.	Entered for Consumption.	Duty.
Fiscal Year ending—	$	$	$	$ c.
30th June, 1868 -	57,567,888	73,459,644	71,985,306	8,819,431 63
" 1869 -	60,474,781	70,415,165	67,402,170	8,298,909 71
" 1870 -	73,573,490	74,814,339	71,237,603	9,462,940 44
" 1871 -	74,173,618	96,092,971	86,947,482	11,843,655 75
" 1872 -	82,639,663	111,430,527	107,709,116	13,045,493 50
" 1873 -	89,789,922	128,011,281	127,514,594	13,017,730 17
Aggregate for 6 yrs. $	438,219,362	554,223,927	532,796,271	64,488,161 20

The only year in which the imports appear to have fallen short of those of the preceding year, is that of 1869. This was no doubt due to the increased importations in the Maritime Provinces in 1867, to avoid the duties of the Canadian tariff which were rather higher than those in New Brunswick or Nova Scotia, thus producing a depression in the importations of the year mentioned (1869).

This Table shows that the exports of the country increased in six

years 55·95 per cent.; the imports entered for consumption, 77·13 per cent.; the amount of duties 47·59 per cent.; and that the average yearly excess during that period of the value of imports over exports was $19,334,094—the average yearly excess of goods entered for consumption being $15,762,818. This last amount includes an average of $6,015,091 of free goods, of which again an average of $1,100,000 yearly consists of the value of property brought into the country by immigrants, under the name of settlers' effects, which latter amount, it is considered, may clearly go in deduction of the excess of importations, thus reducing that excess to $14,662,818.

It is not my province to examine into or to speculate upon the bearing which the received theory of political economists, touching the balance of trade, may have upon this feature of the statement. It is my duty to confine myself to figures, but I trust I may be permitted to notice that there exists one momentous item of gain to Canada which does not appear in figures in our commercial statistics, and that is the value of our British and foreign carrying trade, which is almost exclusively in the hands of our large ship-owners, whose magnificent steamships and sailing vessels bring the products of foreign countries to our shores, and carry from our shores the products of Canada to foreign markets.

The statements of Canadian shipping, to be found in this volume, will show the large amount of tonnage employed in our carrying trade seaward, from which some inference may possibly be drawn of the value of that branch of our trade, measuring it by the magnitnde of our import and export trade as exhibited in the statements which are now submitted.

The value of Canadian exports to Great Britain and foreign countries is shown in the following comparative statement for the fiscal years ending respectively on the 30th June, 1872 and 1873:—

Countries.	Value of Exports.	
	1872.	1873.
	$	$
Great Britain	25,862,940	31,486,571
United States	36,232,939	40,554,655
France	102,242	31,907
Germany	36,232	76,553
Spain	25,084	25,080
Portugal	122,225	191,156
Italy	209,189	177,232
Holland	6,376	13,142
Belgium	60,777	17,754
British North American Provinces	1,767,866	2,283,638
British West Indies	2,319,702	1,939,733
Spanish West Indies	1,632,681	1,614,312
French „	273,547	299,060
Other West Indian Islands	100,222	91,630
South America	782,854	1,259,266
China and Japan	49,711	46,389
Australia	30,823	40,965
South Africa	5,618	4,978
Other countries	220,453	229,991
Goods not the produce of Canada	12,798,182	9,405,910
Total	$82,639,663	89,789,922

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The aggregate increase of the exports in 1873 over the exports of 1872 is $7,150,259. That increase is most conspicuous in the products of the mine, the exports under that head showing $3,936,608 in 1872, against $6,471,162 in 1873. Gold-bearing quartz dust and nuggets, the exports of which were almost nominal in 1872 (only $50), rose to $1,035,254 in 1273, and silver ore increased from $1,087,839 to $1,379,380. The increase in the exportation of mineral (or earth) oils is also worthy of note—the quantity exported in 1872 being 7,897,054 gallons, value $1,341,099; in 1873, 9,355,325 gallons, value $1,819,183.

The exports under the other heads of classification exhibit the following increase respectively in 1873 over 1872, viz.:—

Produce of the Fisheries	430,769
„ Forest	4,901,434
Animals and their products	1,826,404
Agricultural products	1,616,778
Manufactures	532,367

The value of imports entered for consumption, and the amount of duties collected thereon, as also the countries from whence the goods were imported during the fiscal years 1871–2 and 1872–3 are shown in the following statement, by which it will be seen that the value of goods entered for consumption in the latter year exceeds the value entered in the former by $19,805,478:—

Countries.	Value of Goods entered for Consumption.		Duty Collected.	
	1872.	1873.	1872.	1873.
	$	$	$ c.	$ c.
Great Britain	63,148,736	68,522,776	7,917,246 01	7,398,460 17
United States	35,639,586	47,735,678	2,410,401 89	2,966,119 34
France	1,827,858	2,023,288	582,968 12	627,831 95
Germany	941,691	1,099,925	300,696 86	334,415 51
Spain	434,158	477,886	93,587 80	102,711 21
Portugal	67,430	75,032	20,411 75	21,245 21
Italy	33,605	52,425	9,717 53	9,320 80
Holland	194,712	216,628	313,368 24	294,569 02
Belgium	204,344	346,702	53,835 40	94,504 87
British North American Provinces	1,968,587	1,808,997	162,744 13	97,147 31
British West Indies	1,128,236	964,005	427,327 55	401,444 24
Spanish „	1,278,361	1,143,241	512,362 30	412,117 42
French „	35,906	43,412	6,420 91	9,049 77
Other West India Islands	6,934	24,274	3,883 44	9,319 43
South America	81,176	416,199	39,819 37	182,660 79
China and Japan	388,359	1,663,390	144,990 54	157 95
Switzerland	110,982	120,514	15,445 98	15,994 95
Australia	1,103	388,352	110 31	—
South Africa	—	97,999	—	—
Other countries	217,352	293,871	25,691 23	35,533 31
Amounts for which no returns were received by the Department	—	—	4,464 14	5,126 92
Total	$ 107,709,116	127,514,594	13,045,493 50	13,017,730 17

The collective trade of Canada in imports and exports with the undermentioned countries during the fiscal years 1871–2 and 1872–3, as exhibited in the following statement, establishes a steady mainte-

nance of our commercial relations with the mother-country, and largely increased commerce with the United States. With Great Britain the increase of 19·35 per cent. noted in my last Report as representing our trade with that country in 1872 over 1871, has been more than maintained, the increase being 20·5 per cent. in 1873 as compared with 1872. With the United States, however, the percentage of increase in 1872 over was 1871, which only 10·19 per cent., is shown to have risen in 1873 over 1872 to 24·9 per cent.*

Countries.	Aggregate Trade.	
	1872.	1873.
	$	$
Great Britain	89,011,676	107,266,624
United States	71,872,525	89,898,204
France	1,930,100	2,055,195
Germany	977,923	1,176,478
Spain	459,242	502,966
Portugal	189,655	266,188
Italy	242,794	229,657
Holland	201,088	229,770
Belgium	265,121	364,456
British North American Provinces	3,736,453	4,609,552
British West Indies	3,447,938	2,933,548
Spanish „	2,911,042	2,767,432
French „	309,453	343,221
Other West India Islands	107,156	119,224
South America	864,030	1,701,633
China and Japan	438,070	1,709,856
Switzerland	110,982	120,514
Australia	31,926	430,174
South Africa	5,618	102,977
Other countries	437,805	566,847
Goods (not produce) exported	†12,798,182	—
Total	$190,348,779	217,304,516

† The distribution of this amount would slightly diminish the increase of trade in Great Britain and United States, but would not affect materially the figures of the other countries.

The statement shows the value of goods entered for consumption from Great Britain and value of our exports to that country, aggregated, to have been in 1872–3, $107,266,624. The goods from the United States and goods exported thereto during the same year show an aggregate value of $89,808,204.

We have thus a total trade, in imports for consumption and exports, with those two countries of $197,074,828, equal to 90·73 per cent. of the whole trade of Canada.

The only British North American Provinces outside of the Dominion on the 30th of June last, were Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. With these two Colonies our trade ranks next in order, the aggregate value of Canadian imports from, and exports to, those Colonies having been, during the last fiscal year (1872–3), $4,609,552, thus retaining the position assigned to them in my last Report; and if we include our trade with the British West Indies, which amounts to $2,933,548, exhibiting for the fiscal year under consideration "between Canada and Great Britain and Canada and Britain's other "possessions in this hemisphere, an aggregate amount of purely

* Sic in orig.

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"British trade" of $114,809,724, being an increase of $20,128,326 upon the amount stated in my Report of the previous year.

The value of the goods in bond in the Queen's warehouses at the various ports of the Dominion on the 30th June, 1873, was $6,710,420, representing duties computed under this present tariff of $2,523,449.11.

The returns of the *sea-going* shipping entered inwards and outwards at the seaports of the Provinces of Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and British Columbia show an increase in the tonnage engaged in that branch of the carrying trade, as will be seen by the comparative statements following, in which British is distinguished from foreign tonnage.

NUMBER and TONNAGE of SEA-GOING VESSELS ENTERED and CLEARED.

INWARDS.

	1871-72.		1872-73.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
British - - - - -	8,218	2,188,372	8,620	2,132,250
Foreign - - - - - -	2,140	801,421	2,469	900,496
Total inwards - -	10,358	2,989,793	11,089	3,032,746

OUTWARDS.

British - - - - -	7,933	2,168,292	8,250	2,190,753
Foreign - - - - - -	1,965	788,619	2,258	862,036
Total outwards - -	9,898	2,956,911	10,508	3,052,789
Total inwards and outwards - - - -	20,256	5,946,704	21,597	6,085,535

With regard to the tonnage of vessels employed in the inland trade between the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec and the United States, the returns, if correct, show a falling off which cannot well be explained when coupled with the fact of a large increase of our trade with the United States. The increased facilities for the transport of merchandise by railway between the two countries may, it is believed, partially account for the anomaly; and the inference is strengthened by the official statements we see of the large increase which marked last year the traffic of our great railway lines crossing or connecting with the international boundary.

The statement of the tonnage employed in the inland trade last referred to for the fiscal years 1871-2 and 1872-3 is here presented:—

	1871-2.	1872-3.
	Tons.	Tons.
British, inwards - - -	1,975,572	1,644,721
„ outwards - - -	1,822,566	1,481,858
Foreign, inwards - - -	1,606,576	1,349,713
„ outwards - - -	1,456,742	1,187,170
Total, inwards and outwards -	6,861,456	5,663,462

The returns showing the number and tonnage of ships built during the last fiscal year in each of the Provinces of this Dominion, of which an abstract is here given, affords evidence of the tendency to build ships of a larger class than heretofore. A comparison of these returns with those of the year preceding, whilst showing a numerical increase of ships built — of two, only, established an increase of 26,315 tons of shipping.

Provinces.	Built 1871–72.						Built 1872–73.					
	Steam.		Sail.		Total.		Steam.		Sail.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Ontario - -	25	4,915	30	5,374	55	10,289	29	6,682	33	7,263	62	13,945
Quebec - - -	6	916	68	13,284	74	14,200	7	420	65	20,116	72	20,536
Nova Scotia -	—	—	188	52,882	188	52,882	1	33	175	62,968	176	63,001
New Brunswick	5	421	88	36,043	93	36,464	7	774	97	41,927	104	42,701
British Columbia	1	156	3	74	4	230	1	139	1	48	2	187
Total - -	37	6,408	377	107,657	414	114,065	45	8,048	371	132,322	416	140,370

It will be seen upon reference to the statement of Canadian exports, that the value of our manufactures sent abroad to foreign markets stands at the comparatively small figure of $2,921,802. It is believed, however, that although this is an advance of $532,367 upon the previous year, the exemption of machinery from duty under the authority of the 34 Vict. cap. 10, passed in 1871, is calculated to give an impulse to the manufacturing energies of the country which will largely and rapidly increase this branch of the exports. The value of machinery imported in 1870–71 was $524,113, of which $15,218 was free; in 1871–2 the importation amounted to $829,568, of which $259,021 was free; and in 1873 the gross value of the imports of machinery was $1,236,275, of which amount $419,853 was entered under the exemption.

I stated in my Report of 1871–2 the proportion which in each of the six Provinces the collections bore to the whole customs duties collected in the Dominion. The ratios have not widely altered during the fiscal years 1872–3, as will be seen by the following comparative statement:—

	1872.	1873.
Ontario - - -	29·64 per cent.	33·01 per cent.
Quebec - - - -	47·34 „	45·15 „
Nova Scotia - - -	10·25 „	9·56 „
New Brunswick - -	9·78 „	9·57 „
British Columbia - -	2·63 „	2·33 „
Manitoba - - -	0·36 „	0·38 „

The increased ratio in Ontario (3·37), which has more or less diminished the ratios of the other Provinces, gives unmistakable evidence of its rapid growth and consequent commercial developments,

DOMINION OF CANADA.

all the more remarkable from the fact of the general growth and commercial advancement of the Dominion at large.

The whole humbly submitted,

R. S. M. BOUCHETTE,
Commissioner of Customs.

REPORT on the INLAND REVENUES of the DOMINION of CANADA.

SIR,

Herewith I have the honour to submit the usual financial and statistical statements respecting the business of this Department during the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1873.

As compared with the total revenue accrued in 1871–72, the revenue of 1872–73 shows a decrease of $187,757, or somewhat more than 3⅓ per cent. The increase in 1871–2 over the previous year was 9½ per cent.

The present decrease is more than accounted for in the diminution of the revenue derived from excise, which decreased $249,184, or about 5¼ per cent. From public works there is an increase of $43,837, or 7¼ per cent. There is an increase of $5,254—7⅓ per cent.—from the Supervisor of Culler's office, and of $12,335, or 6¼ per cent. from bill stamps.

I may here mention that the General Expenditure Account, No. 2, now includes for the first time the cost of the inside service.

The following is a summary comparison, in continuation of that given last year, showing the accrued revenues for 1867–8 to 1872–3.

	1867–68.	1869–70.	1870–71.	1871–72.	1872–73.
	$	$	$	$	$
Excise - - -	3,078,212	3,664,465	4,301,389	4,762,378	4,513,194
Public works - -	486,811	543,596	579,132	592,961	636,798
Culling timber -	70,886	66,475	63,228	74,512	79,767
Bill stamps - -	119,712	136,276	184,255	189,161	201,496
	3,755,621	4,410,816	5,128,004	5,619,012	5,431,255

The total decrease in the revenue from excise is as above stated, $249,184, and arises in two articles—spirits and tobacco.

Spirits.

The quantity manufactured during the year was 5,547,517 proof gallons, and the revenue derived from this source shows a decrease of $58,926—a little more than 2 per cent. The quantity entered for consumption was less by 90,538 proof gallons in 1872–3 than in 1871–2. At the commencement of the first-mentioned year there were in warehouse 1,140,842 proof gallons, and at its close the quantity had increased to 1,621,801 gallons. The quantity manufactured was therefore in excess of the quantity required for consumption and export by 480,959 proof gallons.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

The quantity of spirits exported during the year was 327,531 proof gallons, as against 432,047 exported in 1871–2—a decrease of 104,516 gallons. The quantity taken into bonded manufactories was 262,539 gallons, as against 221,797 gallons in the previous year. An increase of 40,742 gallons.

MALT AND MALT LIQUOR.

Malt.

The quantity of malt returned as made and placed in warehouse in 1872–3 was 44,133,995 lbs., as against 42,479,199 lbs. in 1871–2—an increase of 3·8 per cent. The quantity in warehouse on the 30th June, 1872, was 13,381,439 lbs., and on the 30th June, 1873, the quantity was 12,862,041 lbs. There was ex-warehoused for consumption during the intervening period 34,459,762 lbs., as against 30,114,492 lbs. in the previous year. In 1871–2 the exports amounted to 8,765,786 lbs.; in 1872–3 they amounted to 10,193,631 lbs.

There has therefore been an increase of 4,345,270 lbs., or 14½ per cent. in the quantity consumed, and of 1,427,845 lbs., or 16¼ per cent. in the quantity entered for exportation.

Malt Liquor.

The quantity of malt liquor produced in 1872–3 was 11,060,521 gallons, being in excess of the previous year's production by 1,503,193 gallons, or 15¾ per cent. Of the whole quantity produced in 1872–3, 588,803 gallons were produced from malt used in combination with other substances—chiefly *glucose syrup*. The beer so produced was subject to a duty of 3¼ cents per gallon, and yielded a revenue of $19,247.55. But, under the Order in Council of 10th March, 1868, the brewers obtained a refund of the duty paid on malt used in combination with syrup. The refunds so paid amount to $13,752.17. So that the beer produced from other substances than malt was subject to a duty of $5,495.38. Deducting from this, $111.51, the duty collected on beer made from raw grain, combined with malt, there will remain the sum of $5,383.87, collected on beer made from *glucose syrup*, and this is equivalent to about 1·9 cents on the beer made from each pound of the syrup returned as having been used.

The quantity of beer made from malt and other substances combined with it in 1871–2 was 559,183 gallons, so that there has been an increase of 29,620 gallons, or about 5½ per cent.

In addition to the refunds above referred to, there has been refunded the sum of $2,829.63, being the duty on malt used in the production of beer exported. The quantity of beer exported in 1871–2 was estimated at 159,800 gallons. The exports of 1872–3 were 85,361 gallons.

Taking the revenue from malt and malt liquors together and deducting the refunds, the net revenue from this source is $368,110, as against $330,688 for the previous year. The increase being nearly equal to 12 per cent. which may be compared with an increase of 6·27 in 1871–2 over 1870–71.

Tobacco.

The revenue accrued upon this article falls short of the accrued revenue of 1871–2 by $238,727. During the same period the revenue actually collected has fallen off by $238,930, and the quantity taken for consumption has decreased by 1,606,310 lbs. A decrease in the revenue from this source was predicted in my Report for 1871–2, and I then explained the circumstances likely to cause it, as follows:—

"But with reference to this large increase—$217,342—it is proper to state that the quantity entered for consumption in May, 1872, was considerably more than double the quantity taken during any previous or subsequent month, and that these entries were passed while Parliament had under consideration the removal of the tea duties. It may therefore be assumed that parties holding considerable quantities of manufactured tobacco in bond hastened to clear them out of warehouse, in anticipation of an increased duty on tobacco as a partial compensation to the general revenue for the loss of the tea duty. This inference is supported by the marked decrease in the duty collected on tobacco during the subsequent months. Under these circumstances it would not be safe to accept the apparently greatly increased consumption of the year as a fair indication of a corresponding increased demand by the actual consumers."

In confirmation of the above, I may point out that the duties collected on tobacco in the month of May, 1873, were less by $175,936 than they were in May, 1872, and that each of the following months until December showed a considerable decrease. By that time the disturbance appears to have nearly disappeared. Comparison should therefore be made with the consumption of 1870–71, rather than with that of 1871–72. There was collected in 1870–71 $1,035,794, and in 1872–73 the collections were $1,013,557—a difference of $22,237—so that it may be safely assumed that the quantity taken for consumption in the last-mentioned year is considerably below the normal requirements of the trade, it being less than the quantity taken in 1870–71 by 226,822 lbs.

The quantity manufactured in 1872–73 was 6,451,119 lbs. The quantity in warehouse at the commencement of the year was 1,953,641 lbs., and at the close of the year there remained in warehouse 1,490,546 lbs., showing that the production of the year had fallen short of the demand for consumption and export by 463,095 lbs.

The entries for export during the year were for 645,932 lbs., showing a decrease as compared with the previous year of 55,887 lbs., or $8\frac{2}{3}$ per cent.

Petroleum.

The revenue from petroleum, including inspection fees, is $3,780 in excess of the revenue of the previous year, but it still falls short of the revenue of 1870–71 by $9,583. The quantity taken for consumption in 1872–73 was 4,516,490 gallons, as against 4,398,315 gallons in 1871–72, and 4,437,709 gallons in 1870–71. The decrease in the revenue is therefore due to the reduction in the fees charged for inspection.

There was exported in 1872–73 9,635,998 gallons, as against 8,085,794 gallons exported during the previous year—an increase of 19 per cent. The quantity in bond at the commencement of the year was 543,631 gallons; at the close of the year there remained in warehouse 736,797 gallons. The production had therefore been slightly in excess of the demand for consumption and export.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Canals.

The revenue from these works in 1872–73 was $446,222, being an increase of 26,278 over the revenue of 1871–72. Of this increase $4,627 accrued on the Welland Canal, $277 on the St. Lawrence Canals, $4,261 on the Chambly Canal, and $18,384 on the Ottawa and Rideau Canals. There is a loss of $2,241 on the Burlington Bay Canal, due to a reduction in the rate of toll, and a revenue from the St. Peter's Canal in Cape Breton, amounting to $970, now appears for the first time in the returns of this Department.

Heretofore the statistics of the canal traffic have been given only for the fiscal year ending on the 30th June. This is necessary as a check in the financial statements, but it has been found exceedingly inconvenient in making comparisons with reference to the commercial transactions of the country.

The quantity of grain transshipped at Port Colborne during the seasons of 1872 and 1873 is given below. The total number of grain-laden vessels lightened at Port Colborne in 1873 was 175, as against 166 in the previous year. The number entirely discharged without entering the canal was 120 in 1873, as against 119 in 1872. The quantity of grain lightened was as follows:—

	1872.	1873.
Wheat	9,425 tons.	14,327 tons.
Corn	7,405 „	5,930 „
Barley	—	123 „

The quantity discharged from vessels at Port Colborne, which did not enter the canal, was as follows:—

	1872.	1873.
Wheat	21,121 tons.	36,930 tons.
Corn	43,163 „	31,115 „

Slides and Booms.

Of the revenues accrued on these works there is now outstanding a balance of $125,961, being an increase of $25,020 over the balance outstanding on the 30th June, 1872. The dues accrued in 1872–73 amounted to $127,172, of which there was collected $103,692.

Hydraulic Rents.

There was outstanding under this head on the 30th June, $174,940. The annual charge is $33,805, and the collection during the past year amounted to $20,572. The difference being made up mainly of dis-

puted items, but it also includes some amounts as to which there is no dispute, and for the recovery of which steps should be taken if not speedily paid.

Culling Timber.

The revenue collected for this service was $81,038, of which $79,766 accrued during the year. The revenue accrued in 1871–72 was $74,512, so that there has been an increase of $6,526. The total cost of collecting this revenue was $69,272. The surplus was therefore $10,494. In 1871–72 the surplus was $7,970.

Bill Stamps.

The net revenue from bill stamps was $201,442, being an increase of $12,281 over the revenue of 1871–72.

Weights and Measures and Gas.

The Acts of last Session, 36 Vict., cap. 47 and 48, respecting the inspection of weights and measures and gas will not take effect until the expiration of the six months' notice to be given by proclamation in accordance with the requests of the law. This proclamation cannot be made until the standards have been deposited. Arrangements have been made in England for the construction of these standards, and for their verification with the standards of the United Kingdom. But their construction and verification requires considerable time, and it is not expected that they can be deposited before June next. Immediately thereafter the Act may be proclaimed. It is therefore certain that the law will not come into full operation until January, 1875, when the appointment of deputy inspectors will become necessary. In the meantime arrangements are in course of completion for obtaining the apparatus and standards necessary to enable them to perform their duties.

A special Report has already been submitted to you of the steps taken for obtaining the Dominion and departmental standards above referred to, and for having them duly verified by their prototypes. This document will accompany the present Annual Report of the Department.

On reference to page 30 of the Annual Report of the Department for 1871–72, there will be found a footnote to the financial statement No. 17, explanatory of the reservation of $4,000 out of the votes for the inspection service of that year. In consequence of an unexpected delay in the delivering of the apparatus and standards ordered in 1872, only $559.90 out of the $4,000 was disbursed prior to the 30th June, 1873. This sum was paid to Mr. Oertling, of London, for two balances and a set of standard avoirdupois weights delivered by him for the use of the Department. The remainder, $3,440.10, will be accounted for in the financial statements for the current year.

Inspection of Staple Articles.

The administration of the laws passed during the last Session of Parliament respecting the inspection of staple articles (36 Vict., cap.

39), has been added to the other duties of this Department. This service is not intended to add anything to the revenue, but it adds materially to the Departmental correspondence, and somewhat to the expenditure. A reliable estimate of the expense cannot yet be made, but as it is made the duty of the Department to provide for the selection and distribution of the standards mentioned in the Act, the cost of doing so must be provided for.

I have made arrangements for recording and printing the statistical returns received from the Inspectors, which may form a useful addition to the statistics of this Department.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. BRUNEL,
Commissioner.

The Hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue.

REPORT of the INDIAN BRANCH of the DEPARTMENT of the MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable The EARL OF DUFFERIN,
Governor-General of Canada, &c., &c.

May it please your Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit for the imformation of your Excellency, the Report of the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs for the year ended the 30th June, 1873.

As the Report relates to transactions which occurred when the Indian branch of the Department was connected with the late Department of the Secretary of State for the Provinces, prior to the establishment of the Department of the Interior, and many months before I assumed the management of that Department, I do not feel that it is necessary for me to make any comment on the Report.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) DAVID LAIRD,
Minister of the Interior.

Indian Office, Ottawa, Department of the Interior,
March, 18, 1874.

SIR,

I have, in accordance with the usual practice, the honour to submit the Annual Report on Indian Affairs for the year ended 30th June, 1873.

The gradual additions made to the funds in the hands of the Government on Indian account, has permitted, from the revenues derived therefrom, the extending of many advantages to those Indians from the sales of whose lands and timber the capital has been created.

	$	c.
The capital derived from these sources was, on the 30th June, 1873 - - -	2,105,382	17
To which is to be added the capitalization of annuities payable for cessions of territory - - - - - - - -	704,765	66
And making a total of - -	$2,810,147	83

The interest and annuity moneys divided among the numerous Bands entitled to participate in them (and separately altogether from the transactions with the Indians of Manitoba and the North West territories, growing out of the treaties of 3rd and 21st August, 1871, which will appear elsewhere), amounted to, combined with salaries, surveys, and incidental expenses, $190,339.53.

	$	c.
The amount received during the year on account of land and timber, was - -	65,246	77
Interest on investments - - - -	150,972	62
Grants in aid of Indians of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and for blankets for aged Indians of Ontario and Quebec -	8,300	00
Total - - - - -	$224,519	39

The quantity of land sold during the year was 27,282 acres.

The amount divided among the Indians, between July, 1872, and 30th June, 1873, exceeded, by the sum of $5,862.04, that divided during the year which ended 30th June, 1871.

The annuities paid to the Indians of Manitoba and the North West during the year ending 30th June, 1873, was $16,745.

It will be interesting, as respects the progress of education among the Indian people, to furnish in this place some particulars. In the Province of Ontario the pupils number according to recent returns, 1,307; in the Province of Quebec, 471; in the Province of Manitoba, 120. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, offers made by the Department to give support to Indian schools appear to be ineffectual. The one at Bear River, Annapolis County, Nova Scotia, at one time sustained with Indian funds, seems to have been discontinued. We are unwilling to ascribe this to apathy on the part of the local agents.

In British Columbia, it is believed that the leading religious societies who it was shown in my Report of last year were engaged in educating and civilizing the Indians, are continuing the same laudable efforts.

The intelligence of the Indians of that Province gives encouragement to the expectation, that with liberal encouragement, the Indians, who form so large a proportion of the population, may, as they are not deficient in enterprise, be transformed into valuable members of the community. Superintendent Powell's General Report of last year will be found worthy of a reperusal; it discloses the evils of past systems, portrays the capabilities of the Indians, and the inducements which exist for a great effort to advance their condition.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

The fact cannot be disguised that in too many quarters an intolerance of Indians as a race is continually manifested, and the limited number of acres which a humane care of them demands are begrudged them; and efforts to effect their removal from the reserves guaranteed them by solemn treaty and contract are not infrequent. The knowledge which reaches them of attempts made to transfer them from their reserves to remoter localities, is to them both harassing and prejudicial. Fortunately, they are protected by statute. But they are not unaware that law does not always remain the same.

A persevering effort has for a number of years been made to prevail with each head of an Indian family to establish a homestead, to be transmitted to those who succeed him as its head. The plan is now finding increased acceptance among those people. Its tendency is to elevate them in the social scale. Each has or can have the boundary of what thereby becomes his property defined by lines of survey. He acquires, which he had not before, a species of freehold; and he learns to attach to his position a respect which it had not previously, and thus an important step is taken towards assimilating the condition of the Indian people to that of those of other origins.

The transactions for acquiring the Indian title to lands in Manitoba and the North West were moulded on those which preceded them in the late Province of Upper Canada, and thus the inconvenience and danger of attempting to pass over the territorial rights of numerous Bands, who might (had justice been withheld from them) have become formidable, has been avoided. Thanks to the Missionary Societies, the work of education had already been initiated, and the assurances given in the treaties that the work of education would be sustained by the Government has been to the required extent verified.

With reference to the promotion of agriculture among the Indians of that part of the Dominion, the supplies of ploughs, harrows, spades, hoes, scythes and axes, and farming stock, delivered to such as were prepared to take proper care of them, testify to the Indians the fidelity with which all agreements will be carried out, and will enable them, from the produce of the soil, to subsist their families, independently almost of the game which formerly was almost their entire dependence and support.

In addition to those tribes of Indians with whom treaties in Manitoba were made, there was found to be a migratory Band of Sioux Indians, for whom it was deemed very advisable to make provision. Their case being reported upon, locations of 80 acres to each family were authorized. They have proved themselves to be expert hands at harvesting, when employed as they have been by the White settlers. They, as a roving Band, with no rights of soil (for such was a few months since the case), were becoming an object of anxiety, and theirs would soon have become a sort of gipsy life, but for the timely grants of land which have been authorized by Order in Council. They have now strong inducements to conduct themselves well.

In regard to the Indian Affairs of British Columbia, it was hoped that the plans formed and concurred in by Order in Council for

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assigning to each Indian family a location of 80 acres, would have been carried into effect. Difficulties in the way of doing this have, however, interposed, but which it is trusted may ere long be removed. For until the Indians are satisfactorily located on lands, and they are judiciously collected into communities, schools for their instruction and other ameliorative arrangements cannot properly be proceeded with. And further, that by limiting, as heretofore, the land to each family to a minimum quantity, agriculture can be nothing else than a mere farce, and it is in vain to tell those people to support their families by farming, unless land enough be allotted to each, out of which to make a farm.

It is with considerable satisfaction we can refer to the continued successful management of the Industrial School near Brantford, conducted under the auspices and at the expense of the New England Society of London; and of that at Mount Elgin, sustained in a principal degree from Indian funds, and conducted by the Wesleyan Methodist Society. The pupils from these and some other schools, exclusively for Indians, are qualifying the young people of both sexes for the usual avocations of life; and the extension of such establishments to other Provinces of the Dominion could not but prove an important boon to the different Bands for whose benefit they may be brought into existence.

It seems to my mind, that the training of some considerable number of young Indian people to industrial pursuits, and the following systematic processes for realizing objects to be attained, are necessities to be supplied, if it be accepted as a duty that the Indian population are not to be left to stagnate, but must be improved, by introducing among them some such educational machinery as public opinion everywhere proclaims must be provided for those who have a whiter skin than the Indian.

The claims of the Indians to liberal consideration, as respects their condition and their rights, and the obligation to promote their welfare, has now-a-days few advocates, and not a year passes but that attempts are made to acquire from them the little remnants of reserved lands which they occupy. There is among the Indians, it is to be admitted, as among many people of other origins, a great drawback to be contended with, and that is, with many of them an indifference about the future. The providing the necessaries of life only just as they are required, seems to be their main concern. The tendency of agriculture, and in the pursuits of it, we are from time to time offering all the encouragement in our power, is to counteract those habits of improvidence; and by increasing the number of industrial institutions among them, and fostering those already established, the cultivation of the soil will, it is hoped, be intelligently carried on upon all the principal reserves. As one of the results of the industrial schools, the number of Indians who are occupied in handicraft employment is evidently increasing.

With regard to social and moral improvement, I believe that with the exception of some localities, where the Indians are specially exposed to injurious influences, owing to their proximity to towns where the laws which prohibit the sale or barter of intoxicating liquors to Indians are not respected, they are becoming more con-

scious of their responsibilities as members of society, decidedly orderly in their conduct, more industrious in their habits, and less addicted to crime; and with regard to the commission of crime, probably there are fewer instances of it than among an equal number of persons who are not of Indian blood.

From the population returns it will be observed that the sanitary condition of the larger proportion of the Bands is very satisfactory. These returns dispel the idea which did prevail very generally, that the Indian race was dying out. With better habitations, a sufficiency of the necessaries of life, proper clothing, and suitable medical attendance, their physical condition is an improvement upon what it used to be. The amelioration of their state is doubtless also largely owing to the Christianizing influences brought to bear upon them.

In the disposal and management of the lands which have been given up for sale, and nearly all of which is disposed of upon the express condition of actual occupation and improvement, there has been a fair degree of success, and the local agents and superintendents have performed their duties relating thereto satisfactorily.

The closing up of land transactions of many years and the adjusting special claims, occupy unavoidably much time. The transfers of purchases, the management of the timber business, and the apportioning of moneys for the various objects to which they are devoted, entail much correspondence and render the business of the Indian Office increasingly onerous. But I can claim for myself and for the gentlemen serving under me, the merit of all being animated by a sense of duty, and of having faithfully acquitted themselves.

The land and timber business of the current year afford promise of ample receipts from them. And the construction of roads, through the instrumentality of those entrusted with the management of affairs, proceeded with in the Sangeen Peninsula and on the Great Manitoulin Island, affording access to the lands still unsold, and the erection of two flouring mills and two saw mills on that Island, have conferred great benefit on the settlers.

It is trusted that the construction of the road, which has been surveyed throughout the length of Batchawana Bay Reserve to the North of Sault Ste. Marie, will be proceeded with during the approaching season, and that thereby the settlement of that extensive tract will be facilitated. This road must form an important link in a great highway between the Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay and the intervening Mining Districts, and will open the way to any such lands of fertile quality as may be traversed in its course.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WM. SPRAGGE,

Dep. Supdt. Genl. Indian Affairs.

BERMUDA.

BERMUDA.

No. 2.

No. 2.

Governor LEFROY to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Bermuda,
May 9, 1874.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year ending the 31st December, 1873, and to submit the following observations.

Revenue.

2. The duties on imports remain as they have been for some years past, nothing being heavily taxed except wine, which pays a duty of 20 per cent. ad valorem, and spirits which are charged 3*s.* per gallon; the revenue raised under the Supply Act continues to increase slowly. It has never been greater than in 1873 (23,791*l.*). The average of the last three years exceeds that of the three previous years by not quite 10 per cent. I have on a former occasion pointed out that the revenue of the Colony is made to appear larger than it really is by the practice of entering all the receipts of the Treasury under that head. Thus, in 1871, 5,120*l.* borrowed for the completion of the causeway was entered as revenue. This year 2,300*l.* deposited in the Savings Bank appears under the same head.

The real local revenue of 1873 was as follows:—

	£
From fixed sources - - - - - -	1,867
From incidental sources - - - -	4,771
By proceeds of the Annual Supply Act - -	22,791
	£27,130

And this sum has not varied to the amount of 100*l.* for the last three years. On the other hand the expenditure is equally stationary, except so far as affected by paying off of debentures, or by the Colony engaging in works of improvement of a permanent character. The erection of a new lunatic asylum now in progress may be classed under this head.

Pauperism.

3. The very small number of persons returned as paupers in Bermuda is an evidence of general comfort and well-being in the population, as well as of a praiseworthy sense of independence and self-respect which will not accept of parish relief. It is only 68, or 1 to 190 souls. There are workhouses in St. Georges and Pembroke parishes, none in the parishes of Hamilton, Smith, Paget, Devonshire, Southampton, or Sandys. There is a small building, formerly I believe a lockup for vagrant slaves, in Warwick parish, with one inmate, who receives one shilling a week.

A sum of 400*l.* was bequeathed by the late Miss Davenport for the

support of an almshouse at St. Georges, but it has not yet been brought into operation. Outdoor relief, ranging from 2*s.* to 4*s.* a week, is the usual resource, supplemented by assistance from Church Offertories, taken here every Sunday, and by private charity. There appears to be room for improvement in the mode of relief of the sick, infirm, and aged poor, which is left in a great degree to voluntary parochial associations and casual benevolence. This will scarcely be effected until the parishes are led to combine in voluntary union for such purposes. On the other hand, I have the satisfaction of stating that a comfortable infirmary of two wards, with four beds in each, having the same furniture as the Military Hospitals, has been annexed to the workhouse at Pembroke parish, from the proceeds of a rate, assisted by private contributions.

Schools.

4. The number of scholars nominally receiving elementary education in schools assisted from the Legislative Grant is 908, out of not fewer than 2,600 children of school age, being 35 per cent. The number whose attendance is regular and continuous is much smaller. The children of the white labouring classes suffer most from educational neglect. The parents will neither send them to schools frequented by the coloured race, nor for the most part make adequate, or indeed any sacrifice to maintain separate schools. The town and parish of St. Georges are unhappily conspicuous for this indifference: according to the census of 1871, there are 469 children of school age (5 to 15) in the parish, of whom 144 are on the common school books, and 47 on those of uninspected schools, viz. 19 boys and 28 girls in St. Georges, all white, exclusive of a few individuals permitted to attend the military school. A competent schoolmaster has recently had to betake himself to other pursuits for want of support. Of the handful of white children mentioned above, who represent all the white education of the ancient capital and principal sea-port of these islands, half are in two small infant schools; and not above 20 are over 9 years of age. It follows that there is a comparatively large number of young persons of both sexes and both races receiving no education, except such as may be derived from attendance at Sunday schools.

Agricultural Products.

5. The agricultural exports of Bermuda were rather less in total value in 1873 than in the previous year. The falling off is, however, chiefly in exports of arrowroot, which fluctuates with the state of the market. Taking the staple products, onions, potatoes, and tomatoes, there is on the whole an increase from 59,551*l.* to 61,844*l.* The experiment of introducing labourers from Sweden has been on the whole successful, although a few have broken their engagement to serve two years, and left the Colony. They have generally proved sober, industrious, and faithful servants.

Visit of H.M.S. 'Challenger.'

6. The visits of H.M. surveying ship 'Challenger' to Bermuda, in April and May, 1873, were memorable events in the year, no other scientific expedition having ever done so. She was here on the whole

BERMUDA.

36 days. I am in no position to speak of the scientific results which may follow these visits, but their moral effect, in leading many of the people to take a more intelligent interest in the objects which surround them, will endure for a long time; and I trust that permanent benefits to navigation may follow the attention given by Captain Nares, R.N., to the dangers of these coasts.

Marine Slip at St. Georges.

7. The marine slip at St. Georges has taken up the same number of vessels for repair as last year, viz. 16, of which 13 are British, 3 American. The number of vessels stranded or lost on the reefs in 1873 was unusually large, viz.:—

1873.
January 6.—Steamer 'Minnie Breslauer,' sunk.
March 7.—Steamer 'Petersburg,' a wreck.
„ 8.—Ship 'Charlotte,' a wreck.
„ 9.—Steamer 'Maharajah,' stranded.
„ 25.—H.M.S. 'Royal Alfred,' stranded.
April 25.—Ship 'Beaumaris Castle,' a wreck.
May 9.—Barque 'Hannah Hicks,' stranded.
Oct. 16.—Steamer 'Darien' stranded.
Nov. 25.—Schooner 'Spark,' stranded.

The subjoined table shows the number and tonnage of vessels taken up on the slip from March, 1866, to April 30, 1874, and at the same time shows what class of vessels most frequently meet with disaster in this neighbourhood; only 25 out of a total of 128 are over 300 tons burden; 75 are under 200 tons.

Vessels under 100 tons	21
100 under 200 tons	53
200 „ 300 „	29
300 „ 400 „	7
400 „ 500 „	11
500 „ 600 „	5
744 tons	4
904 „	1
	128

A small local steamer of the War Department, called the 'Bluebird, is not included. The number of vessels disabled by storms at sea, and seeking these islands as a port of refuge, was also very large. Here is their legitimate business and their true function; and in proportion as this is realized by the inhabitants, and a good commercial character established by upright dealing and fair charges, must be the development of St. Georges by the legitimate profits of shipping business.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Carnarvon, (Signed) J. H. LEFROY.
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 3.

No. 3.

Administrator RUSHWORTH to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Georgetown,
MY LORD, December 26, 1873.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a Report prepared, by my direction, by Mr. Walker, the Acting Government Secretary, on the statistics comprising the Annual Blue Book for 1872. 20th December, 1873.

Mr. Walker has explained the cause of the delay in the preparation of the Blue Book itself, and I have only to add that it will be forwarded to your Lordship immediately on its receipt from the contract printers.

I have, &c.,
The Earl of Kimberley, (Signed) EDWARD RUSHWORTH.
&c. &c. &c.

Government Secretary's Office, December 20, 1873.

1. In submitting at this late date, in compliance with the directions of his Excellency the Administrator, the following observations on the statistics comprising the Annual Blue Book for 1872, it is to be regretted that such delay should have occurred in their preparation for transmission to the Secretary of State. The returns from the different departments were furnished in due time; and in the probability of the continued absence, from illness, of the Government Secretary, their compilation, with the exception of those relating to revenue and expenditure, was completed in the month of February. The public accounts are usually closed and in a form for publication about the end of April or the middle of May, and the completion of the Blue Book is thus thrown on the printer's busiest time of the year, during the Session of the Combined Court and at the beginning of the financial year.

2. Until some more expeditious and satisfactory arrangement for the public printing can be made than that under the present contract, which will expire at the end of next year, the retrograde mode of preparing the Blue Book in manuscript appears to be the only sure remedy within reasonable cost of securing its earlier completion. These circumstances, however, do not excuse a delay under which the printer has not even at this date put the book out of his hands.

3. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The only very material alterations in the tariff of Customs' duties for some time past was made at the Session of the Combined Court of 1872, by the reduction of the rates of fish from 2*s.* 1*d.* per 112 lbs., and in flour from 4*s.* 2*d.* per barrel of 196 lbs. to 2½*d.* and 5*d.* respectively, and by the abolition of the duty of 1*s.* 0½*d.* per 100 lbs. on

BRITISH GUIANA.

rice. The duties on fish and flour have since July 1, 1873, been restored to their former rates; but the effect of the temporary alteration may be shown by the following Table of the receipts from these sources of duty:—

	Fish.	Flour.	Rice.
	£	£	£
1870 to June 30	3,615	8,620	10,597
„ Dec. 30	4,418	10,161	5,705
	8,033	18,781	16,302
1871 to June 30	4,557	10,339	6,360
„ Dec. 31	3,030	9,240	9,677
	7,587	19,579	16,037
1872 to June 30	4,888	10,405	9,662
„ Dec. 31	503	1,138	Free
	5,391	11,543	9,662
1873 to June 30	487	951	Free

4. There was therefore a loss of revenue in these respects in 1872, as against the previous year of 16,607*l.*, and a comparative decrease in the latter half year of 19,444*l.* By a few Coolies clubbing together and buying a bag of rice, the abolition of the duty might be felt, but by the ordinary consumer, who buys his fish, flour, and rice in small quantities of the value of a few pence, no benefit was experienced from the alteration.

5. The prices of these somewhat perishable articles depend on their supply by import, and on their introduction being in the hands of a very limited interest. The prices ranged in the financial year 1871–2—of fish, per qt. of 448 lbs., from 41*s.* 8*d.* to 116*s.* 6*d.*; duty 8*s.* 4*d.* Flour, per barrel of 196 lbs., from 25*s.* to 39*s.* 5*d.*; duty 4*s.* 2*d.* Rice, per bag of 160 lbs., from 20*s.* to 22*s.* 11*d.*; duty 1*s.* 8*d.*; and in 1872–3, during the whole of which the reduced rates of duty were in force, of fish, per qt. of 448 lbs., from 41*s.* 8*d.* to 108*s.* 4*d.*; duty 10*d.* Flour, per barrel of 196 lbs., from 24*s.* to 36*s.* 5*d.*; duty 5*d.* Rice, per bag of 160 lbs., from 16*s.* 3*d.* to 18*s.* 6*d.*, being free of duty. The fluctuation in the prices of fish were thus eightfold the amount of the higher duty, and in the case of flour threefold.

6. For the last five years the revenue and expenditure have been as follows:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1868 - -	290,881	297,348
1869 - -	311,377	293,636
1870 - -	354,130	325,855
1871 - -	379,647	338,053
1872 - -	377,742	391,226

7. There was therefore a slight falling off in the total revenue, and the steady and considerable increase which had been going on since after the depression of 1866 was checked, though the total receipts were still 34,967*l.* in excess of the average for the preceding lustrum. The comparative statements of each head of revenue show a decrease in import duties—notwithstanding the loss by the reduction of the rates on fish and flour, and by the abolition of that on rice of 16,607*l.*—of only 6,985*l.*, in interest of 4,262*l.*, and in superannuation abatements, owing to their discontinuance, of 3,124*l.* On the other hand, the amount of excise duty received on rum, and of tax on retail spirit licences, exceeded that of the former year by 9,938*l.*, and of 1870 by 21,345*l.* The collection of the excise revenue under the provisions of Ordinance No. 25, of 1868, by which the weight of the tax was transferred from the duty per gallon on the rum to the licences for its sale, assessed by a Board according to the dealer's sales, and to the circumstances of his local position, compares thus with the system in force before January 1, 1869.

	Duty on Rum.			Retail Licence.	Together.
	Rate.	No. of Gallons.	Amount.		
	s. d.		£	£	£
1866 - - - -	8 4	122,299	57,413	21,757	79,170
1867 - - - -	—	112,740	51,671	21,291	72,962
1868 - - -	—	108,317	48,364	21,606	69,970
1869 - - - -	1 0½	197,089	11,675	66,476	78,151
1870 - - -	—	204,797	12,192	73,050	85,242
1871 - - - -	—	242,482	14,720	81,929	96,649
1872 - - -	—	300,068	18,599	87,989	106,588

8. The growing amount of spirits on which duty has been paid is not to be accounted for by any increased consumption, but rather suggests the extent to which the facilities in the country for the illicit supply of this article were practised in previous years.

9. The expenditure of 1872, which appears to have exceeded that of 1871 by 53,167*l.*, and the revenue of the year by 13,478*l.*, includes the sum of 27,661*l.*, set aside from the surplus revenue of 1871, and invested in liquidation of the public debt; and, as the surplus balance in question does not appear in the heads of revenue for the year under review, should for the purposes of comparison be considered as less by that amount.

10. Classified under the principal heads the expenditure of the two years compared as follows:—

	1871.	1872.
	£	£
1. Civil establishments - -	34,315	34,445
2. Judicial, including police and prisons	95,354	100,525
3. Hospitals, including poor, Orphan Asylum, and Leper Asylum -	46,474	49,065
4. Ecclesiastical - - - -	20,200	22,084
5. Education - - - - -	15,641	17,408
6. Pensions and gratuities - -	5,062	7,252
7. Immigration - - - -	28,465	25,519

	1871	1872.
	£	£
8. Public works, &c. - - -	43,418	54,041
9. Interest and debt - - - -	29,575	60,700
10. General and miscellaneous - -	19,518	20,181
	£338,053	£391,220

11. The increase under the judicial head of expenditure was in the police department, to which some men for special employment, whose cost was reimbursed by the parties benefited, as well as a new coast-guard vessel, were added. The men also commenced to receive one suit of uniform each annually, the cost of which had hitherto been defrayed out of their own pay, and the mail carriage service, which in the fares received and appearing as revenue is remunerative, having been extended, entailed an additional outlay. The amount under the head of Ecclesiastical was increased in 1872 by the purchase of a residence at a cost of 2,500*l.* for the Bishop of the Diocese, to whom an annual vote, which is now consequently discontinued, had been made for rent and repairs, pending the completion of certain previously proposed arrangements for providing his Lordship with such accommodation.

12. Under education, the annual vote in aid of the Roman Catholic Grammar School was increased by 104*l.*, and a special grant of 417*l.* was made to assist in the thorough repairs of the building of the Queen's College Grammar School, which had been established since 1844. The payments which are made in aid of the salaries of teachers of schools of the several denominations in accordance with a standard laid down in regulations, approved by the Legislature, amounted to 12,446*l.*, and exceeded those of the previous year by 1,375*l.* As causing the increased expenditure under the head of Public Works, with which steam communication, surveys, and measures for the improvement of the Colony are placed, there are included the cost of the purchase of a cattle and provision estate for the establishment of a village for East Indian immigrants, who have fulfilled their term of industrial residence, and who should receive allotments in lieu of their claim to back passages, and 6,767*l.* in excess of the amount expended in 1871 in the erection and repairs of buildings. Besides the amount set aside from the surplus balance from last year for investment towards the liquidation of certain loans, and before referred to, the further increase under the head of public debt was occasioned by larger provision for sinking funds falling on this year's accounts.

Public Debt.

13. The amount of public debt outstanding, as shown in the statement prepared in the commencement of this year for the purpose of being laid before the Combined Court, at its last annual Session, was 411,492*l.*, and the reduction which has taken place, as compared with the similar statement for the previous year, was as follows:—

	1871.	1872.	Decrease or Increase.
	£	£	£
Payable by the general revenue for its own purposes	207,333	123,583	83,750 *D*
Payable by ditto for village purposes, and recoverable from village rates	15,700	15,700	—
Guarantee by general revenue, but payable by corporation of George Town	79,740	67,850	11,890 *D*
Ditto ditto of Town of New Amsterdam	2,083	4,167	2,084 *I*
Ditto ditto by proprietors of estates for immigration purposes	205,300	197,900	7,400 *D*
Ditto ditto by Roman Catholic Church	2,709	2,292	417 *D*
£	512,865	411,492	101,375

14. The amount of debt redeemed, for which the general revenue of the Colony was pledged for its own purposes, has been paid off without any charge for the year, viz. 80,000*l.* of the Imperial Guaranteed Loan under Ordinance No. 8 of 1850, out of the Sinking Fund provided by an annual investment in Consols for meeting its liquidation in full by 1874, and 3,750*l.* out of investments made in other Colony bonds, and with a further similar provision which has been made, the moneys borrowed under Ordinances No. 4 of 1853, No. 10 of 1854, and No. 3 of 1859, will be fully repaid.

The advances made by the Colony to redeem the village loans are secured on the rates of the villages, and will be recoverable when the benefits of the improvements made by their means are beginning to be felt. The revenue of the year being amply sufficient, there was no occasion for taking advantage of the borrowing powers given by enactment, with a view to the construction of public works of a permanent character.

To meet the still outstanding direct liabilities there is already invested a sum of 66,990*l.*, which includes that set apart from the previous year's surplus.

15. The repayments and interest due on account of money borrowed for the Mayor and Town Council of Georgetown were met out of the municipal revenues. The increase of the debt raised on behalf of the Board of Superintendence of New Amsterdam to enable them to secure a supply of water to the town, is owing to a further issue of the authorized amount of bonds to meet the expenses of the progressing works.

16. The loan for the completion of the erection of a new Roman Catholic cathedral is being repaid, as agreed upon, by annual instalments, which will be completed in 1877, and are secured by a preferent lien on the provisions in the Clergy List Ordinance for the support of this religious body.

Commerce.

The value of imports and exports during 1872 and the four preceding years were—

	Imports.		Exports.
	£		£
1868	1,618,378	-	2,232,212
1869	1,572,275	-	2,116,014

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1870 - - -	1,897,098	2,383,422
1871 - -	1,897,184	2,748,720
1872 - - -	2,013,553	2,462,704

Showing in the year under report, as compared with 1871, an increase of 116,369*l.* in the imports, and a decrease of 286,016*l.* in the exports, and thus diminishing the comparative excess of exports over imports to 449,151*l.*

In the imports the increase occurred in 6,048*l.* from the United Kingdom, in 61,951*l.* from the West Indies, in 80,957*l.* from other British Colonies; whilst there was a falling off to the amount of 29,599*l.* from the United States, and of 2,986*l.* from other foreign countries.

These larger figures were due more to some circumstances of the respective markets than to any expansion of export trade from the several Islands and Colonies concerned.

The products of the cane, sugar, rum, and molasses constituted, during 1872, more than eleven-twelfths of the exports, and the discontinuance of the favour which shone on the previous season and the consequently shorter sugar crop by 14,788 hogsheads, quite accounted for the falling off in their total value. The value of these three staple exports amounted in 1872 to 2,268,875*l.*, as compared with 2,567,703*l.* in the previous year, and their distribution to the various countries between the years 1868 to 1872 was as follows:—

SUGAR.

	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom -	1,009,137	813,626	1,024,768	945,651	1,035,763
British Possessions - -	31,431	46,574	76,886	77,301	60,445
United States - -	599,833	684,145	697,180	1,158,528	849,288
Other Foreign ditto -	4,454	1,650	5,082	9,030	12,991
£	1,644,855	1,545,995	1,803,916	2,190,510	1,958,487

RUM.

United Kingdom -	247,720	261,832	281,267	282,385	220,463
British Possessions - -	19,630	28,428	24,713	20,974	25,744
United States - -	100	—	—	483	221
Other Foreign ditto -	10,310	8,477	6,463	8,038	8,542
£	277,760	298,537	312,443	311,880	254,970

MOLASSES.

United Kingdom -	15,185	10,367	31,010	4,666	1,965
British Possessions - -	13,038	30,553	17,056	22,315	11,800
United States - -	86,302	88,237	25,038	32,980	31,110
Other Foreign ditto -	11,580	11,855	10,526	5,351	10,543
£	126,105	141,012	83,630	65,312	55,418

The trade with the United States in sugar and molasses, which had been steadily increasing from 86,109*l.* in 1863 received during this year a very considerable check, owing to the alteration of the sugar duties and to the unsettled state of commerce in that country.

The export of timber, which reached the value of 74,715*l.* in 1861 and 62,239*l.* in 1864, has gradually dwindled down to 6,783*l.* in 1872. The timber consisted chiefly of the hard wood used in ships' frames, and to the entire substitution of iron in shipbuilding is attributed the chief cause of the falling off of this colonial industry.

The number of vessels entered at the ports in this Colony during 1872 was 1,020, with a total tonnage of 240,131 tons, and those cleared 1,031 with 223,331 tons, giving an aggregate increased tonnage in the shipping, as compared with 1871, of 22,034 tons.

These figures show a maintenance of the slight gradual increase which had taken place during the several preceding years.

Savings Banks.

The transactions of the two savings banks at Georgetown and New Amsterdam continue to show a satisfactory progress.

During 1872 and the three preceding years the numbers of depositors among each nationality of the community and the amounts respectively deposited were as follows:—

	1869.		1870.		1871.		1872.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
Indian - -	1,622	26,700	2,057	40,928	2,501	47,055	3,137	59,687
Chinese - - -	46	1,090	42	1,219	50	1,401	49	1,162
Portuguese - -	332	9,726	193	8,077	215	10,213	257	11,792
Creoles and others	1,774	25,790	2,500	33,230	3,040	42,327	3,530	47,216
	3,774	63,306	4,792	83,454	5,806	100,996	6,793	119,857

Thus the Indian immigrants, numbering two-ninths of the population, have increased their number of depositors by nearly one-half, and have more than doubled the amount of their deposits; whereas the creole and others, exclusive of the Chinese, who have the reputation of spending all their earnings; and the Portuguese, who engage in petty trade, number about two-thirds of the population, but have not increased the amount of their deposits in proportion to the number of accounts opened at the banks, some material evidence of the prosperity of the strangers from India in this land. The rate of interest paid since 1st July, 1872, when it was raised from three to four per centum, is the same as is allowed by the chartered banks, in the Colony on amounts deposited at certain notice; but the ordinary rate of interest being six per centum, and even reaching higher, the temptation to the gain-seeking Coolie has led him in several instances, which have come to the notice of the Immigration Department, to incur the danger of a less safe investment than the Colony's savings banks.

An attempt was made by the Executive, in 1866, to establish a branch bank in the country, in the county of Essequebo, with a view

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to bringing this accommodation nearer home, but owing either to distrust, or to the desire of having an excuse for making a trip to town, it failed, and has not yet been renewed.

Pensions and Gratuities.

The total of the pensions paid, to public officers during 1872 amounted to 4,362*l.*, a decrease of 137*l.* on those of the previous year, and of 1,343*l.* of 1870. The list was relieved during the year by the death of one pensioner drawing 196*l.*, and there were added to it three pensions amounting to 527*l.*

These pensions are now paid out of the General Revenue, instead of by the Superannuation Fund created under Ordinance No. 22 of 1860, and the balance (not yet quite adjusted) at credit of that fund amounting to about 10,570*l.*, was paid over to form a basis for the scheme for providing to widows and orphans of officers, dying in the public service, pensions calculated by an actuary on the amount of their contributions to the former Superannuation Fund, on the rate of their salary and on the probability, looking to actual and respective ages, of the duration of their widows or orphans as burdens on the fund. The abatement of four per centum on officers' salaries is now also carried to the credit of this latter fund.

The gratuities usually paid to widows on the death of officers in the public service of the Colony amounted in the twelve cases in 1872 to 1,375*l.* These gratuities, which were paid on a scale of three months' salary for seven years' service, of two months for service under seven years, and of one month if the officer had served under four years, are now discontinued, on the establishment of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. There were also special gratuities, of 1,000*l.* to one of the judges, who had been compelled by infirmity of body to retire from his office before he had served ten years, and who died shortly afterwards; of 100*l.*, to be continued during the curriculum of a successful candidate for a Gilchrist scholarship, and of 300*l.* to the widow of the late Mr. Stipendiary Justice Ware as a mark of the estimate of her husband's long and meritorious services, extending over thirty-six years, and which had terminated on his retirement on a pension only two months before his death.

Legislation.

There were twenty-three Ordinances enacted in 1872. No. 1 amended the law relating to insolvency, and adopted the principles of legislation in the mother country on this subject, except that it required the consent in writing of certain proportions of the creditors in cases of insolvency where the dividend was under fifty per centum, to authorize the court to discharge an insolvent within two years from the date of his adjudication. This latter provision, which was an amendment moved by the elective section in the course of the measure through the Legislature, has had the effect that no insolvent has yet been discharged under this law.

No. 5 provides for the distribution of the proceeds of all fines, penalties, and forfeitures, and for their appropriation to those concerned in prosecuting, seizing, or giving information or assistance in

any such matter, in such proportions as may be determined by a Board appointed by the Governor.

This was an assimilation to the practice in force in England where the Commissioners of Customs are vested with the power.

No. 6 extended such of the provisions of the Quarantine Ordinance of 1870 as related to the visit and inspection on arrival of vessels from ports which had been declared "infected" to those arriving from any port whatever, and defined more precisely what should constitute communication with the shore on the part of those in quarantine.

No. 7 authorized the appointment of additional Sessions of the Inferior Criminal Court, extended its jurisdiction in some particulars, and regulated a few points in the manner of proceeding as well as in the personal expenses of the officers of the Court, and in the remuneration of witnesses. So much of one of the provisions which enacted that males under the age of sixteen years might be whipped for any offence within the jurisdiction of this Court has since been repealed, and this description of punishment for youthful offenders is now restricted to convictions of larceny and embezzlement.

No. 8 amended in some respects the jurisdiction and manner of proceeding of the Inferior Civil Court.

Nos. 10 and 12 provided for the payment of a minimum daily rate of wages, and for the issue of certain rations to all immigrants introduced into the Colony from India, and enacted that contracts to serve in this Colony made by immigrants in India should be binding on their employer on arrival here. These measures were promptly passed at the instance of the Indian Government.

No. 14 regulates the storage of petroleum and other dangerous goods, and No. 16 the licensing and controlling of persons having gunpowder or other explosive substance on their premises for sale or otherwise.

No. 15 authorized the Supreme Courts of Criminal and Civil Justice to compel a witness to answer any question which might be put to him, and provided for an indemnity to such witness as a bar to all proceedings in respect of the matters touching which he had been so examined.

No. 17 vested in certain trustees a sum of money voted for providing an episcopal residence for the Bishop of the diocese, and prescribed their powers and functions in the execution of this trust.

No. 20 provided for the enforcing of discipline among the ministers and members of the branch in this Colony of the Established Church of Scotland.

No. 21 regulates the issue of licences for keeping dogs, and authorized their destruction under certain circumstances. This enactment was passed on the occurrence of several fatal cases of hydrophobia, until then almost unknown in the Colony.

No. 22 consolidated and amended the provisions of six different Ordinances, which regulated the militia force, and had been from eleven to fifteen years in operation. This law still awaits the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure.

No. 23 sanctioned the transfer of convicts between convict and ordinary prisons, and the removal to any gaol of prisoners awaiting their trial.

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Inconvenience had been experienced from the absence of any authority for removing prisoners about the Colony to give evidence, or for other temporary purposes.

The other Ordinances merely carried out financial provisions, or legislated on matters of no special interest.

Immigration.

There were introduced during 1872 from the East Indies 3,556, from Madeira 367, and from Barbados 2,697 immigrants at the expense of the Colony.

Fifty-eight immigrants from India, who had become free from indenture or service in other Colonies, arrived during the year at their own expense, and being registered at the Immigration Department, took bounty on estates.

Emigration from China, so long suspended, is about to be re-opened, the difficulty in the great expense of return passage having been removed by the requirement to make a certain money payment in lieu of the return passage, the amount of which, however, has been represented by this Government to be perfectly insufficient for the purpose.

The Madeirians and Barbadians enter into no indenture, and merely mingle with the rest of the population of the Colony, the former applying themselves almost exclusively to employments connected with shop-keeping and trade, in which their fellow-countrymen have attained a prominent position in this Colony, and the greater portion of the latter being agricultural labourers and artizans, who, after earning a sufficiency of wages, go backward and forward between their native island and this.

There are, therefore, no statistical results of these two descriptions of immigration, except that at the time of the census of 1871, out of a population of 193,491 souls, there were returned 7,920 as natives of Madeira, and 13,385 as of the different West India Islands.

Of the East Indians resident on estates in the commencement of the year there were 33,940 under indenture and 8,823 free Coolies. The difference between these amounts and the number of the natives of India, with their Creole offspring, according to the last census, is unaccounted for in the records of the Immigration Department, but they are employed in pursuits of their own in the villages or towns, or on the several cattle pastures owned or leased by their fellow-countrymen.

The steamer 'Enmore' left on the 4th September, and the ship 'Rohilla' on the 18th October, taking 988 return immigrants from Calcutta and Madras, who had passed ten years in British Guiana, and who were therefore entitled to a back passage to India at the Colony's expense. These return immigrants deposited in the Colony chest for remittance to meet them in India money to the amount of 22,570*l.*, and took with themselves jewelry, cash, and valuables, which might safely be estimated at an equal sum. The Government also allowed 138 Chinese to take passage in these vessels as far as Calcutta, from which port they would have to pay their way to China at their own expense. The greater number of these paid for their passages at the rates of 14*l.* 10*s.* and 9*l.* 9*s.* in the steamer and the sailing vessel,

and further deposited 1,479*l.* as savings for remittance to meet them at Calcutta.

As evidence that residence here is not looked upon by the immigrants from India with much disfavour, it may be mentioned that there are at present in the Colony upwards of 14,000 of them who are in a position to come up and claim a return passage, but have not exercised this right.

The mortality amongst immigrants resident on estates was for the half year ended June 30 at the rate of 15·5, and for the second half year at 14·2 per thousand, which compares favourably with the annual death rate for the whole colony of 37·02.

Public Works.

Out of the general revenues there has been expended on the public works and buildings of the Colony during the last five years—

	£
1868	19,600
1869	6,059
1870	8,200
1871	27,453
1872	34,220

In addition to the foregoing there were executed by loan raised under the authority of Ordinance No. 9 of 1869 works of a permanent character at a cost of 12,165*l.* in 1869, and of 14,061*l.* in 1870.

The most important work is the continuation of the sea wall for the protection of the city of Georgetown from the encroachment of the sea, and the wall was extended during 1872 about 550 feet, at a cost of 8,075*l.*, leaving 3,000 feet yet for its completion.

The extension of the wall on the west coast at the mouth of the Demerara river is now also being carried on. The progress of these works is limited by the supply of stone from the penal settlements, and from a few small quarries of free labour. On the Georgetown sea wall is found the principal remunerative labour for the prisoners in the Georgetown gaol, to the number on an average of 150.

Three police stations, another gaol for the county of Essequebo, containing 64 cells of 792 cubic feet, two additional wards at the public hospital in Georgetown, and a two-storied wing to the bonded warehouse, were the principal new buildings either completed or in course of construction.

A closed iron fence 15 feet high on a brick wall was erected round the Georgetown gaol, at a cost of 1,000*l.*, and 517*l.* was expended at the penal settlement in materials which were applied by convict labour to the various buildings of that prison.

Owing to the description of our wooden buildings, and to the nature of the climate, there is a very large annual expenditure on repairs and painting.

The work done by the Colony to the public roads is comparatively small. Each proprietor is still required by a very old principle of legislation here to keep up such part of the public road as runs through his estate; and it is only on his neglect so to do that the

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Colony intervenes to effect its repair, the cost of which can be recovered by legal process. In cases of drainage by encroachment of the sea, and where the estate has almost been given up to abandonment, the cost of repair has necessitated the estates being brought to sale and purchased by the Government to cover the outlay. The burden of repairing and maintaining the road has thus been transferred to the general revenue until the estate can be disposed of.

The larger public road bridges over the creeks running from the interior are maintained at the expense of the general revenue. The cost of these repairs to roads and bridges in 1872 was 2,727*l.*

Criminal Statistics.

The returns do not show any great increase of crime during 1872. The number of offences reported to the police or the magistrates was 30,359, as against 23,195 in the previous year; but it is to be explained, that the return was first called for in this form during the course of 1871, and that the records had not been so kept as to make the information given so reliable as when prepared for the purpose for the next year.

There were brought before the Magistrates' Courts 29,840 persons, of whom 12,697 were discharged either for want of prosecution by the complainant or of evidence, and 4,373 on cases being dismissed on their merits, while 12,430 were summarily convicted, and 343 were referred for trial in the superior courts.

The convictions before the magistrates were classified in comparison with 1871 as follows:—

	1871.	1872.
Offences against the person - - -	2,982	3,826
Prædial larceny - - - - -	178	80
Offences against property - - -	981	911
Master and servants, including offences against the Immigration Law - -	4,316	4,657
Other offences - - - - -	3,473	2,956
Total - -	11,930	12,430

The greater portion of the offences against the person are constituted by the use, so freely indulged in by the negro, of abusive language towards his acquaintances, and it is only a very small number that is not contributed by the indentured immigrants to the 4,657 convictions for breaches of the labour laws. Of those convicted, 7,201 paid fines, 2,582 went to gaol in default, 2,454 were peremptorily imprisoned, 54 were flogged, and 139 bound over, with or without sureties.

In the superior courts, judgment was given for the Crown in 288 cases and for the prisoner 93, 48 falling through for want of prosecution, and one prisoner being found insane. Of these convictions, 120 were for offences against the person, and 134 against property. Ten were found guilty of murder, the wife or reputed wife being the victim in four cases, three immigrants murdering an estates' overseer, in another case a Coolie father and son killing a young boy for the

sake of his jewelry, and the tenth being a Chinaman for the murder of his fellow-countryman in the heat of a petty dispute.

Seven suffered the punishment of death, and the sentences of three were commuted, two for the murder of their wives under extenuating circumstances, and the third the boy who with his father had murdered another boy.

The total number of persons committed to all the prisons in the Colony during 1873 was 5,893, and exceeded that of 1871 by 454; but this increase is mainly due to those in detention for safe custody till trial or for want of security, and numbering in the respective years 803 and 380.

The occupancy of the present gaol in the county of Essequebo will be discontinued on the completion of the building still in progress in the immediate vicinity of the Supreme Criminal Court House, and of the principal Police Station of that county. It will contain 64 separate cells, of 792 cubic feet, and is expected to be ready for occupation in about another six months.

To the district prisons of Mahaica and Fellowship only immigrant prisoners are sentenced for breaches of the labour laws, and the prisoner fulfils his sentence there by the performance of as many daily tasks on a scale sanctioned by the Governor, as the number of days of his sentence, and is punished by shot drill in default of such performance. Their labour is hired out to any one of the respectively neighbouring estates under the supervision of an officer of the prison, and at a charge of one shilling per man per diem. The dietary and supervision at Mahaica and Fellowship cost in 1872, 290*l.* and 380*l.* respectively, and the amounts received for the prisoners' labour were 202*l.* and 189*l.*

Hospitals.

The average number of patients under treatment in the Colonial Department of the Public Hospital of Georgetown was 429, being an excess over that of the preceding year of 63. The great length of their average stay in the institution is owing to the fact of there being a large number of inmates more properly belonging to an alms-house or infirmary, and this is confirmed by the specification of the longest time for which anyone had stayed being returned at three years and 218 days.

The new building which is now being erected at the Alms House is capable of accommodating 500 additional paupers, and will, it is hoped, relieve the hospitals of many chronic and incurable cases which hardly belong to such institutions. The deaths among the 4,957 cases under treatment in the year, of which the principal diseases were intermittent fever (719) and ulcers (853), numbered 575, 134 being from phthisis, and 75 from dropsy. A raised building of two stories, each containing a ward of 108 by 35 feet was added to the Public Hospital, the one as a maternity ward, and the other for female infirmary patients, together capable of accommodating 60 beds, with an average cubic space for each inmate of 1,543 feet in the one ward and 2,016 in the other.

The daily average in the Seamen's Department during the year was twenty-two; and there were only two deaths, one being from

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diarrhœa and the other from stricture. When it is remembered that there is a very stringent enactment for securing any seaman in the port, who may be taken ill, being at once sent to this institution, and that there were 661 cases admitted from a shipping of 228,024 tons, and the average duration of their treatment was only ten days, it is some refutation of the general impression of the unhealthiness of this port, which prevails among naval and mercantile circles.

Dividing the total cubic contents of the wards by the average number in hospital during the year, there would have been for each patient in the Colonial Department 1,162, and in the Seaman's Department 2,824 cubic feet.

In the Berbice Hospital there were 790 admissions, with a daily average of 73 patients, and with 137 deaths, after an average treatment of 103 days. The average cubic space to each patient during the year was 1,743 feet. In the term given as the longest time under which any inmate has stayed, namely, 2,017 days, it is to be explained that the general asylum for the poor in the county of Berbice is attached to and is under the same administration as the hospital, and that the information in respect of these two branches ought more properly to be separately returned.

In the only Lunatic Asylum, which stands with the Berbice Hospital on the fort lands outside the town of New Amsterdam, the average number of these unfortunate inmates in 1872 had increased to 165. There were added to the buildings of the institution during 1871 ten single rooms as domitories in the female branch of 15,600 cubic feet, and five double rooms for the same purpose and of the same dimensions in the male branch.

During 1872 a pavilion, 30 feet by 70 feet, for recreation, for Divine Service, and for the males to take their meals in, was erected. Provision was made on this year's estimate for further additional accommodation for 60 males and 40 females, on a plan approved by the late resident surgeon, and at a proposed cost of 5,500*l*., but after the necessary contract had been entered into, and as the work was about to be commenced, the Board of Directors, supported by the medical officers, desired an alteration in the plan. The present resident surgeon having, however, shortly after, with the consent of the Executive, proceeded on a tour to visit the several lunatic asylums in the West India Colonies, the further progress of these works awaits his return.

The patients being much troubled with mosquitoes, it is proposed to tile-drain the whole of the lands, which were formerly the site of a garrison.

Attempts are made to amuse the patients by music on a harmonium, the admittance of itinerant musicians, by some games, and by an occasional dance.

The daily average number of patients employed during 1872 was 34, being at agricultural or gardening, 10; at trades, 3 males in tailoring or shoe-making, and 8 females as sempstresses; and at household work, drawing water, &c., 9 males and 7 females.

Endeavours are made to extend the useful employment of the inmates, but the greater part of them being of the labouring class, and resenting the confinement, shirk the work they have been accus-

tomed to. Situate as the Asylum is, it is not easy of access by the Chief officers of the Government, but it is visited by the Assistant Government Secretary for the county as Inspector, and the remarks in the visitors' book betoken an interest in the institution on the part of members of the Legislature and of the community generally.

Conclusion.

The Registrar-General, in his Report for 1872, estimates the increase to the population since the Census of 1871 at 6,552, and shows that this addition is arrived at by 8,580 from immigration, with a deduction of 1,564 for return immigrants, and of 464 for the excess of deaths over births.

These apparently unsatisfactory results are attributed to the disproportion of the sexes among our immigrant population, and to the absence of any record of persons other than immigrants arriving in or leaving the Colony. The number of births during the year was 7,032, and of deaths 7,354, exhibiting the same deplorable mortality among infants as in the mother country, and a death rate for the whole population of 35·15 per thousand.

The telegraphic communication with England through the West India Islands and the United States was finally completed on the 8th of March, 1872, but the interruptions through accident to the several short cables have been very frequent and continued, and have occasioned so much delay and uncertainty in the transmission of messages that the proprietary Company have drawn only for a short time the subsidy granted by the Colony in aid of the undertaking between this and the States.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) E. N. WALKER,
Government Secretary.

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No. 4.

Governor RAWSON, C.B., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Windward Islands.
Barbados, April 25, 1874.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch, in original, from Lieutenant-Governor Rennie, containing his Annual Report upon the B ue Book for 1873.

2. It presents certain facts of a contradictory character, which appear worthy of notice, and of continued observation on the part of the officer administering the Government; as further examination may throw some desirable light upon the effects of lowering the duties upon articles of food generally consumed in these Islands.

3. Mr. Rennie reports that the production of the staple of the Island, sugar, had fallen off in 1873 by nearly 17 per cent., viz. from

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11,332 to 9,432 hhds., which leads to the inference that the labourers employed on the estates earned less wages, and the proprietors had less money to spend. This was counteracted only to a limited extent by the great rise in the value of arrowroot. The quantity exported was slightly smaller, having fallen from 11,782 to 11,342 barrels, but the value had increased by a third, viz. from 18,146*l.* to 24,708*l.*

4. Mr. Rennie further reports that a very larger emigration had set in, which he calculates at not less than 7 to 800 persons, which is two per cent. of the population, showing a certain amount of pressure upon the population, to whose poverty he bears testimony when speaking of the operation of the Public Health Act. There was therefore a decrease in the number of consumers.

5. The removal of the troops in the first half of 1873 must have affected the consumption of the latter half to a certain extent.

6. Mr. Rennie reports that he believes the information which he has received, that the reduction in the duty on the principal articles of food imported, viz. flour, corn-meal, rice, and salt fish has had no appreciable effect upon the quantities retailed, as it would have little or none upon retail prices.

7. Yet, in spite of all these influences to check increased consumption, the quantities on which duty was paid for consumption—for Mr. Rennie's figures apply to consumption, and not to importation, as the wording of his Report might seem to imply—have increased from 13 to 37 per cent. on the year's transactions, or, if the consumption was stationary up to the 31st May, from 24 to 64 per cent. during the seven months after the change in the duty.

8. It is difficult to account for so large an increase in the face of the antecedent statements. It may be hoped that there has been a greater improvement in the economical condition of the people than Mr. Rennie supposes. He reports that the stocks in the hands of merchants on the 31st December of last year had not increased beyond those at the end of the preceding year. I shall instruct the officer administering the Government to report upon the consumption of these articles during the first five months of the present year. It is certain that Mr. Rennie has done right in resisting the pressure put upon him to reimpose those duties.

9. With reference to the small diminution which the reduction of duty on perishable articles of consumption effects in the retail price, it must be borne in mind that such a reduction may enable the merchant to supply a better article, to destroy, instead of trying to force a sale of, damaged goods, to purchase, and to order consignments on better terms, and in other ways indirectly to enable him to supply the consumer to greater advantage, although the nominal price of the retailed article is not lowered. It must further be noticed that where competition is not very active, the dealers, wholesale and retail, may combine to keep up for a while the price of their stocks on which the higher rate of duties has been paid.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Carnarvon, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) RAWSON W. RAWSON,
Governor.

Enclosure.

Lieut.-Governor RENNIE to Governor RAWSON.

Government House, St. Vincent,
March 30, 1874.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book of this Colony for 1873, and to furnish the following Report:—

Taxes, Duties, &c.

2. The withdrawal of the detachment of Imperial troops formerly stationed in St. Vincent, and the consequent cessation of the subsidy for their maintenance, rendered a considerable reduction in the taxation possible. The mode in which this reduction should be made was a subject of much consideration, and finally it was decided that the total exemption from import duty of the principal articles of food, such as flour, rice, corn-meal, and salt fish, would have perhaps the best results, as it would conduce to a more nutritious style of feeding amongst the poorer classes and at the same time give a stimulus to labour by making the labouring population more anxious to obtain money for the purchase of imported articles.

3. The loss of income by these exemptions is estimated at nearly 3,000*l.* a year, or about one-tenth of the whole revenue, but there is some doubt if the results desired have been attained or are even in course of attainment. It is alleged, and I believe with reason, that though the duties taken off, viz. 4*s.* a barrel on flour, 1*s.* 3½*d.* per 100 lbs. on salt fish, 1*s.* 3½*d.* per 100 lbs. on rice, and 1*s.* 8*d.* per barrel on corn-meal, are considerable, and sufficient to reduce wholesale rates, they have no appreciable effect on the quantities retailed. When it is considered that the duty formerly charged on a barrel of flour was little over a farthing a pound, and that prices here never move less than a cent at a time, it may easily be seen that even with the best will on the part of the retailers, no immediate change was likely to occur.

4. I am not without hope, however, that a lowering of prices in America, or a brisker competition amongst retail traders, aided by the free-trade policy, will yet bring about the desired reduction, and I have therefore resisted for the present the clamour of those persons who wish for relief from direct taxes at the cost of the re-imposition of these duties.

5. It is worthy of note that the import of all the duty-free articles has increased considerably during the past year, and more particularly so since the 1st of June, the date of remission. The following is the table:—

	1872.	1873.		
Flour -	6,491 brls.	To May 31 -	3,137 brls.	7,972 brls.
		From June 1	4,835 „	
Corn-meal -	1,296 „	To May 31 -	571 „	1,760 „
		From June 1	1,189 „	
Rice - -	741,401 lbs.	To May 31 -	329,434 lbs.	841,227 lbs.
		From June 1	511,793 „	
Salt fish -	1,101,049 „	To May 31 -	484,868 „	1,330,677 „
		From June 1	845,809 „	

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and from what I can learn the stocks in the hands of the merchants were not larger on 31st December last than at the end of the preceding year. The increased consumption may, however, be due simply to a slightly improved condition of the general population.

6. An additional income tax of one per cent. on incomes over 50*l.* a year was likewise taken off, and the export tax levied in aid of the troops was transferred to the Immigration Fund.

7. The remainder of the troops taxes were incorporated with the general revenue, to provide a fund out of which an increased police force could be maintained, and the education of the people be better provided for.

Revenue and Expenditure.

8. The revenue of 1873 was 29,246*l.* and the expenditure 28,683*l.* For 1872 the figures were 32,124*l.* and 31,185*l.* respectively. The decrease on the revenue side arises as shown above from diminished taxation, and on the expenditure side from the discontinuance of the subsidy for the maintenance of troops.

9. A return made by the auditor of the assets and liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December last gives a nominal surplus of Assets of 13,493*l.*, but as nearly 8,000*l.* of that amount is on loan to the town of Kingstown on terms which will render the Government annual contribution for water the principal source from which the refund will be made, the remainder, or 5,500*l.*, is all that can be considered as in any way available. Such a balance, however, with no public debt, and by no means heavy taxation, at least in relation to the exported productions of the Colony, affords proof that since the alteration of the constitution whereby the Crown has assumed the responsibilities of legislation, the resources of the Island have been husbanded, though at the same time the duties of Government have been more completely carried out, and public works have been pushed forward with a vigour not previously known.

10. The immigration receipts amounted to 3,921*l.*, including the contribution from the general revenue and a refund of 1,150*l.* paid to the Colony by the Trinidad Government. The expenditure was 573*l.*

11. Municipal taxes from Kingstown and the four other small towns realized 941*l.* No further local rates of any description were levied in the Colony.

Public Works.

12. The same activity which has been manifested in this department since 1871 has been kept up.

13. The Kingstown Water Works have been completed, and the supply of water through the town is now amply sufficient, whilst a proper reserve has been maintained for the extinction of fires. The mains are kept charged at high pressure during the night and a similar pressure during the day can be applied in a few minutes. The necessity for fire engines is therefore done away with—hose pipes applied to the fire-cocks even with the low pressure being sufficient to reach almost any houses.

14. A large and handsome building for the accommodation of the police force has been commenced and is being rapidly proceeded

with. The Gaol improvements have been continued, and a new slaughter-house on Kingstown Bay has been erected.

15. The roads of the Island were well kept up, and one new bridge was erected, and another was in course of construction.

Legislation.

16. Although the Acts passed during the year were few in number —only eleven in all—several of them were of considerable importance.

17. Act No. 367 provides for the repeal of the taxes formerly levied for the support of a detachment of troops. These taxes realized nearly 6,000*l.* a year, and any surplus over what was needed for military purposes was carried to the account of general revenue. About 700*l.* or 800*l.* a year was thus appropriated annually.

18. Act No. 368 consolidates some of the additional duties formerly levied on troops account with the ordinary customs tariff, and relieves entirely from import dues flour, rice, corn-meal, and salt fish. The produce of the duties added to the tariff is expected about to counterbalance the loss of revenue from the exempted articles.

19. Act No. 369 imposes a tax on cultivated lands, of 1*s.* an acre on those on which the staple products are grown, of 6*d.* on provision grounds, and 3*d.* on pasture land. Also a tax of 3*s.* on houses containing one or two rooms, with 2*s.* 6*d.* additional for each extra room. Both the taxes were formerly payable under the Troops Tax Acts. The produce of the house tax now forms an Education Fund.

20. It is to me a matter of considerable doubt whether the principle of imposing a tax on cultivated lands is a right one. The tax I would prefer would be one on all alienated lands, thus causing either their culture or their sale or their reversion to the crown. The old Crown leases contain a stipulation of this sort in the shape of an annual quit rent of 6*d.* an acre, but the collection of these rents has been long left in abeyance.

21. Act No. 370 provides for the continued levy of the additional export tax previously raised under the Troops Tax Acts, and the transfer of the proceeds to the Immigration Fund. No additional contribution is made from general revenue for immigration purposes, and the share of the fund supplied by the Government is thus reduced from one-third to a little over two-ninths.

22. Act No. 371. This Act abolishes the Grand Jury and transfers the powers formerly exercised by it to the Attorney-General. The change thus effected enables the common jury list to be strengthened, and ensures a more equal administration of the laws.

23. Acts Nos. 373 and 374 have been passed for the purpose of disestablishing the Anglican Church and vesting in trustees nominated by the Church Council the property formerly appropriated to the use of the Established Church. The former Act also provides for the granting of State aid to Anglicans, Wesleyans, and Roman Catholics, the amount of such aid being based on the number of persons professing the different denominations as ascertained by the census of 1871. When existing interests have lapsed these amounts will be 1,275*l.*, 1,050*l.*, and 200*l.* respectively. In the meantime, in addition

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to the salaries payable to the Anglican ministers, 650*l.* a year has been granted to the Wesleyans, and 100*l.* a year to the Roman Catholics. These amounts to be gradually increased by half the lapsing salaries to the former and one-eighth to the latter until the respective maximum grants are reached.

24. Act No. 375 relates to the formation of public cemeteries and the compulsory sale, at a valuation, of land required for such purposes.

Civil Establishment.

25. The only change under this head was the separation of the office of Administrator from that of Colonial Secretary, which occurred on my return from Trinidad at the end of May; Mr. Laborde, who had held the combined offices for nearly a year, having then reverted to his own office of Colonial Secretary only.

26. I see no difficulty in a combination of these two offices being permanently made when my tenure of the Lieutenant-Governorship expires, though in such case it would be necessary that the head of the Government should have a seat in the Legislature as President, and thus obviate the weakening of the official side of the House.

Population and Public Health.

26. The Registrar-General's returns for 1873 give the living births as 1,795, and still births 105; of the former 883 were males, and 912 females, of the latter 52 were males and 53 females. Illegitimate children formed 57 per cent. of these totals.

27. The deaths were 978 equally divided between the two sexes, children under one year of age forming $27\frac{3}{10}$ per cent. of the total, and those of all ages under 15 nearly 55 per cent.

28. According to the natural increase of the people since the taking of the census in 1871, the population should have amounted to 36,817 at the close of last year, but I fear that the large emigration to Trinidad which has lately set in will have reduced the actual number to less than 36,000.

29. Taking these latter figures the birth and death rates, exclusive of still births, will have been respectively 50 per thousand and 27 per thousand. The former is the highest I have yet noticed in any of the West India Colonies, and the latter is by no means unfavourable. The births in 1872 were 45 per thousand, and the deaths 27.

30. Only 231 marriages were celebrated as against 237 in the previous year. Anglican ministers performed the rites in 126 cases, Wesleyan in 68, and Roman Catholics in 17.

31. The sanitary state of the Colony was good, and the benefits of the Medical Aid Act, 1871, are being felt by the labouring classes. The returns of the five district medical officers show that gratuitous advice and medicine was afforded to children under eight years of age in about 2,700 cases during the year, and to sick and destitute and aged persons in about 500 instances. About 2,300 labourers also received advice and medicines under the scale of charges, but I hear great complaints of the difficulty of collecting even the small charge of a shilling for advice in which minor medicines are often included.

32. The district medical officers were only called in 29 midwifery cases, and I doubt not that the inefficient midwives who do attend are

partly the cause of the large number of still births, and of the great mortality in the children under one year of age. Certificates of fitness for the duties of midwife are now granted by the doctors to competent persons, and if the people could be induced to pay attention to these certificates, and give to persons holding them a preference, great good would be done.

33. Successful vaccinations were performed in 1,060 cases, and though this seems hardly to keep pace with the births it must be considered that about 250 children died before attaining one year of age, and that the Grenadines, which cannot be reached for vaccination purposes very easily, were not visited till the beginning of 1874. Moreover one or two of the district officers were unsuccessful in keeping alive their supplies of vaccine matter.

34. Although no epidemics have visited the Colony for some time, I cannot but think that the state of the villages lays them peculiarly open to infection if one should arise. These villages are generally placed amongst bread-fruit trees and in sheltered situations where rank growth of all sorts springs up very rapidly. The district medical inspectors have directed attention to the necessity of having the bush near the houses kept cut, and the rotting vegetation falling from the trees removed. The Public Health Act at present in force is of too cumbrous a nature for dealing with these cases, and I am considering the propriety of fresh legislation on the subject. The poverty of the people, and the difficulty of supervision over the outlying districts, however, present great difficulties.

Religion.

35. The disestablishment of the Church, and the limitation of the State payments to the Anglicans to the actual salaries of the existing ministers, should have made the Church Council see the necessity of retrenching expenditure and forming a fund out of which extensive repairs to existing churches, which will from time to time be called for, could be provided. I fear, however, little in this way has been done. On the contrary the diminution of the Government aid seems to have been the signal for building additional Church school-rooms and providing fresh places for the performance of the Anglican service. This shows that disestablishment has had the effect of making the clergy bestir themselves, but I do not think it wise in a small and poor community such as this, to spend from day to day all that can be collected and even run in debt, when heavy demands for a falling roof or bulging church side are showing themselves as imminent, if the Church property is to be preserved.

36. No actual arrangements have yet been made for securing the services of a bishop, but the newly appointed Bishop of Barbados has been asked to take these Islands under his charge.

37. The Wesleyans and Roman Catholics evince great satisfaction at having been placed on a footing of religious equality with the members of the Anglican Church.

Education.

38. The Education Act, 1871, which had worked well in 1872, has been still further developed during the past year by an increased grant

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for education of about 400*l.* per annum, and by the introduction of test examinations, by which the schoolmasters' salaries have been made largely dependent on the proficiency of their scholars.

39. An inconvenience long felt, viz. that of having two schools, one under Anglican auspices and the other Wesleyan, in districts where one would suffice, is being corrected by raising the minimum of attendance entitling to State aid. At first 30 in town schools, and 20 in village schools was fixed; it has now been raised to 40 and 30. Large schools enable better salaries to be paid to the schoolmasters, and the examinations have shown that as a rule the larger the school the greater have been the attainments of the scholars.

40. In 1872 there were 53 schools with an average attendance of 2,317, and in 1873 with only 49 schools the average attendance was 2,400.

Trade and Commerce.

41. The imports of 1873 exclusive of goods entered for re-exportation were valued at 155,466*l.* against 147,936*l.* in the previous year. The exports, the production of the Colony, were 198,917*l.* against 229,521*l.* in 1872. In previous Blue Book reports the figures given included goods for re-exportation, and foreign produce shipped from Kingstown. On this basis the imports would have been 161,497*l.*, and the exports 209,902*l.*

42. An increase in the imports in the West India Islands always appears to me a healthy feature. It shows either a greater desire amongst the people to better their style of living, or an importation of estates' articles for the extension or improvement of manufacture or culture. The introduction of new machinery for establishing works on a sugar estate lately reclaimed accounts for most of the increase, but considering that the withdrawal of the detachment of troops has taken away an important element in the consumption of imported articles, I think there must have been a slightly increased demand amongst the working classes.

43. The decrease in the value of the exports arises from a deficient crop and from a lower valuation of sugar. The crops of 1873 and 1872 were:—

	1873.		1872.	
		£		£
Sugar - - -	9,432 hhds.	141,475	11,332 hhds.	181,396
Rum - - -	2,558 puns.	25,582	1,933 puns.	19,205
Molasses - -	764 „	2,292	1,610 „	6,440
Arrowroot - -	11,342 brls.	24,708	11,782 brls.	18,146

44. It is satisfactory, however, to observe an improvement in arrowroot, for that is the staple export of the native population, and the whole of the money realized by its sale is re-introduced into the Colony and kept circulating. A rise of 10*s.* a barrel in arrowroot therefore, though adding but 5,000*l.* or 6,000*l.* to the value of the exports, would counterbalance as far as the comfort of the people is concerned a falling off of three or four times the amount in sugar.

45. The shipping returns show a slight falling off corresponding

with the decreased export of sugar. The clearances give 392 vessesl of 20,595 tons for 1873 against 410 of 22,723 tons for 1872.

Immigration and Emigration.

46. No vessel with immigrants arrived from India during the past year, and the immigration from other West India Islands was merely nominal. Unfortunately, however, a very large emigration to Trinidad has set in, and I cannot estimate the loss of population in this way for 1873 at less than 700 or 800. It is impossible, however, to keep an exact account of the emigration to Trinidad, because most of the sloops engaged in that trade are owned in the Grenadines, and touch at these Islands which belong to this Government, both going and coming, picking up and dropping passengers of which no record is kept.

47. The emigration of large numbers of labourers from an island in which labour is in demand is a very serious matter, and it shows clearly that the attachment shown by the Creoles to particular estates and localities is rapidly dying out under the advance of civilization, and that the time is coming when the Colony which offers the greatest attractions will absorb the greatest part of the labour.

48. The eventual acquisition of land by steady and industrious labourers is, I believe, the tempting bait offered in Trinidad, and it can only be counterbalanced by the offer of a similar advantage here. Owners of estates, who have generally large spare tracts of unoccupied land, might easily sell them out, and thus secure a numerous population in the neighbourhood of their cultivation; but they are still imbued with the old prejudice against allowing the lower classes to acquire independence.

49. I have been considering the advisability of bringing the crown lands of the interior into the market, but until surveyors can be procured, and the boundaries of the alienated lands properly defined, this is impossible, besides which I am not anxious to allow settlements to be made too far off the main lines of roads.

Grants of Land.

50. No land grants of any sort have been made for the last 25 years, and very little land has been alienated since the sale of the Charib country estates upwards of 60 years ago.

Crimes and Prisoners.

51. The number of offences reported was slightly less than in the previous year, 2,596 against 2,665. The convictions, however, were more numerous, 1,104 against 1,029, showing greater care on the part of the police in the preparation of cases. Under Masters and Servants Acts only 145 cases were entertained, of which 58 were dismissed for want of prosecution by the party complaining. In 1872 these figures were 171 and 77.

52. The sanitary state of the Gaol was excellent, the only death being that of a prisoner executed. The number of prisoners has been slightly reduced by the establishment of a lunatic asylum, to which prisoners of unsound mind are at once transferred.

ST. VINCENT.

53. A considerable advance in the Gaol improvements has been made, and it is expected that the work will be completed by the end of the present year.

Hospitals and Asylums.

54. The Hospital returns show a slightly increased number of patients, but a diminished mortality. I am inclined to think this is attributable to the working of the district medical officers, who see cases and send them to the hospital before possibility of recovery is passed.

55. A very important addition under this head has been made in the establishment of a Lunatic Asylum at Fort Charlotte. Five lunatics were removed there from the gaol and two more have been since admitted. The establishment is only of a temporary nature, as it is expected that the lunatics from St. Vincent will be received in the Barbados Asylum, when the proposed new buildings have been completed.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. H. RENNIE.

Governor Rawson, C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

ANTIGUA.

ANTIGUA.

No. 5.

No. 5.

Governor IRVING, C.B., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Leeward Islands,
Antigua, July 24, 1874.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Antigua for 1873, with a report from Mr. Baynes, the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY T. IRVING.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 5.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF ANTIGUA FOR 1873.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Presidency is derived from the following sources, viz.:—A duty on imports, a duty on exports, an excise duty, a stamp duty, a carriage tax, a dog tax, a tax on liquor licences, a tax on shooting licences, a tax on licences to deal in metal, a hospital tax on tonnage, fees of office, post-office receipts, fines and penalties, incidental receipts, a land tax for the support of the Anglican Church.

2. In 1871 the import duty was reduced by 25 per cent., and the

tonnage duty levied for purposes of general revenue was entirely repealed. The trade and income tax imposed in 1864 was repealed in 1869. The stamp duties were imposed in 1870, and the excise duty on rum was increased from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a gallon in 1868.

3. These alterations in the rate of taxation have been attended with a considerable loss to the revenue:

	£	£
Loss by the		
Reduction of the import duty	4,200	
Abolition of the tonnage duty	1,400	
Abolition of the trade tax	600	
	——	6,200
Increase by the		
Imposition of the stamp duty	800	
Increased excise duty on rum	800	
	——	1,600
Net loss to the revenue		£4,600

4. Of the entire sum raised by taxation, nearly 60 per cent. is levied upon goods imported into the Island; and of the aggregate amount of 17,151*l.* received from this source in 1873, 7,133*l.*, or 41½ per cent., was derived from articles of food, and of this amount the four articles principally used by the labouring population, namely, corn meal, flour, fish, and rice contributed no less than 6,255*l.*

5. Wines, spirits, and malt contribute a due proportion of the revenue.

	£
The excise duty on rum realized	3,875
Import duty on wines	293
,, ,, beer	127
,, ,, rum	20
,, ,, brandy	975
,, ,, gin	692
,, ,, liqueurs	18
	£6,000

6. The duty on tobacco yielded 1,661*l.*

7. A land tax at the following rates is levied exclusively for the support of the Anglican Church.

Parish.	Rate of Cultivated Land.	Rate of Uncultivated Land.
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*
St. John	1 2 per acre.	1 2 per acre.
St. George	2 2½ ,,	0 11½ ,,
St. Peter	1 4 ,,	1 4 ,,
St. Philip	1 0 ,,	1 0 ,,
St. Paul	1 3 ,,	0 8 ,,
St. Mary	0 7 ,,	0 7 ,,

8. The rate of taxation is 17*s.* 4*d.* per head.

9. In the comparative statement the revenues of 1872 and 1873 are given respectively at 38,817*l.* 16*s.* 1½*d.*, and 33,313*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* Both these amounts, however, are inclusive of incidental revenue,

such as loans in aid, refunds, &c. Deducting these items, the net revenue for each of the years is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1872 - - - -	36,578	14	6½
1873 - - - -	32,530	14	9½
Decrease - -	£4,047	19	9

10. The principal falling off is in the import duty, which realized 3,692*l.* less than in 1872. This has been chiefly occasioned by a diminished consumption of the articles of food. The duties on corn meal, flour, fish, and rice produced 1,623*l.* less than in the previous year.

11. The import duty received during the last five years has been as follows:—

	£
1869 - - - - -	20,130
1870 - - - - - -	20,436
1871 - - - - -	22,734
1872 - - - - - -	20,843*
1873 - - - - -	17,151

12. The expenditure of 1873 was 38,168*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, showing a decrease, as compared with 1872, of 1,701*l.* 15*s.* 11½*d.*

13. The excess of expenditure over revenue was 4,854*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* This excess was met from the balance remaining from the previous year to the credit of the general revenue, which was thus reduced on the 31st December to 74*l.* 6*s.* 8½*d.*

14. The work of retrenchment, which was commenced some ten years ago, and to which special reference was made in the Blue Book report for 1868, has been continued by some further reductions in the establishment of the Presidency during the year. On a new appointment to the office of Provost Marshal and Registrar the salary was reduced from 400*l.* to 300*l.*, and advantage was taken of a vacancy in the office of clerk of the Legislative Council to reduce the salary of the office from 205*l.* to 50*l.*

Public Debt.

15. The public debt on the 31st December was—

	£
Water-works debentures - - - -	31,046
Local loan - - - - - - -	5,763
Savings' bank - - - - - -	8,700
Immigration fund - - - - -	6,120
Holders of Treasury notes - - -	9
	51,638
Less invested in sinking fund for redemption of water-works loan - - - -	9,874
	£41,814

16. The public debt in 1867 was 58,448*l.*

* Import duty reduced from 1st January this year.

Inland Post.

17. On the 1st of October last, a daily Inland Post was established between St. John's and the country districts. The rate of postage has been fixed at 1*d.* per ½ oz. The number of letters which passed through the Post Office from the 1st October to the 31st December was only 1,447, and the amount of postage received was 5*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*, whilst the cost of the service was 29*l.*, or a net cost to the revenue of 3¾*d.* for every inland letter posted.

Militia.

18. The militia force consists of two corps, the Yeomanry Cavalry and the Artillery. The first of these numbers 52 men, and is in a fair state of efficiency. Every sugar estate having over 80 acres in cultivation is compelled to furnish a mounted man, properly armed and accoutred, for this service, the estates receiving in return an allowance of 12*l.* 10*s.* per annum. The fund for the payment of this charge is raised by a duty on the exportation of sugar.

19. The number of men appearing on the roll of the Artillery corps is 65. This portion of the Militia force cannot be said to be in an efficient condition.

20. The total cost of maintaining the Militia force was 615*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*

Public Works.

21. No new works were undertaken during the year. Extensive repairs were effected at the Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.

22. A sum of 2,404*l.* was expended on the repair of the roads.

Legislation.

23. Two Sessions of the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands were held in 1873—one at St. Kitts, in February; the other at Antigua, in October.

24. Seventy-five Bills were passed during the two Sessions. Of these, the Bill for the Creation of a Supreme Court, which was reserved for the signification of the Queen's pleasure, was not assented to by Her Majesty, but was re-enacted, in an amended shape, in the October Session, and came into operation early in the present year.

The Acts, No. 4, to define the number and fix the salaries of the Judges of the Supreme Courts; and No. 5, to make temporary provision for the Administration of Justice, have been rendered inoperative by the passing of the amended Supreme Court Act, No. 23, of 1873.

25. The principal Acts passed are:—The Act to establish a common prison, and to authorize the removal of prisoners from the several Presidencies; the Act to establish a Bankruptcy Law; the Act to provide for the administration of unrepresented Estates; the Act to give indefeasible titles to land, and to facilitate its transfer; and the Acts regulating the establishment and procedure of the Supreme Court.

26. The annual Session of the Antigua Legislature was opened on the 6th of March, but the consideration of most questions of im-

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portance was deferred until the arrival of Governor Irving. His Excellency arrived in July, and the business of the Session was proceeded with. The Session lasted till the close of the year, and resulted in the passing of many useful and valuable laws, the most important of which are:

The Act to disestablish and regulate the gradual disendowment of the Church of England in Antigua. This Act provides for the immediate disestablishment of the Church, and for the cessation, saving the vested interest of the present Incumbents, of the salaries heretofore paid from public funds to the Ministers of the Anglican Church.

An Act to impose a rate on property for the maintenance of the Ecclesiastical Establishments. This Act empowers the Governor in Council to raise a tax on land sufficient for the payment of the salaries of the Rectors who have vested interests under the old Clergy Act. The maximum rate authorized to be levied is as follows:—On uncultivated land, 5*d.* per acre; on cultivated land, 1*s.* 6*d.* per acre; on the rental of houses, 1 per cent. The tax is to be gradually diminished on the falling in of the vested interests of the present incumbents, and on the total abolition of the charge for their payment, it will be reduced to a minimum rate of 6*d.* an acre on cultivated, and 3*d.* an acre on uncultivated, land, and will then form a part of the general revenue of the Presidency.

An Act to abolish Vestries, and to provide for the appointment of Parochial Boards. A reference to Paragraph 7 of this Report will show the unequal manner in which the land tax was imposed in the several parishes by the Vestries. This Act abolishes the elected Vestries, and vests some of the powers exercised by them in Parochial Boards to be appointed by the Governor. But the right of assessing the land tax under the provisions of the Church Rate Act is reserved to the Governor in Council.

An Act to abolish the Salary of the Resident Missionary of the Church of the United Brethren in the division of Nonsuch. This Act completes the legislation of the Session in regard to the establishment of religious equality, and repeals the salary of 133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, which was granted by an Act passed in 1844 to the resident Moravian Minister at Nonsuch, saving, of course, the vested rights of the present Incumbent.

An Act to provide for the medical and other relief of the labouring population. This Act provides for the sanitary inspection of Estates, and for the gratuitous treatment of contract labourers at the public hospital. In consideration of the relief which the measure will afford to the proprietors of estates from the obligation of providing hospital accommodation for their contract labourers, and with the view of meeting the additional expense which will be thrown on the Treasury by the arrangement, the Act imposes an export duty on sugar of 1*s.* a hogshead, and a tax of 1*s.* on houses in towns and villages, the labourers living in such towns and villages being, in consideration of this tax, entitled to gratuitous treatment in hospital.

An Act to abolish the Record Tax, and to impose in lieu thereof an additional duty on exports. The collection of the Record tax was found to be troublesome and expensive, and the returns under it were in no way reliable. This Act imposes an export duty on sugar at 8*d.*

a hogshead in lieu of the Record tax, which was levied at the following rates:—

$\frac{1}{3}d.$ on every acre of land,
$\frac{1}{2}d.$ on every 100 lbs. of sugar,
$1\frac{1}{2}d.$ on every 100 gallons of molasses,
$1\frac{1}{2}d.$ on every 100 gallons of rum.

An Act for obtaining certain annual statistical returns. This measure was rendered necessary in consequence of the repeal of the Record Tax Act. It provides for the preparation by a paid and responsible officer of annual returns, showing the number of acres of land planted in canes, cotton, provisions, and other cultivation, the quantity in pasture, and the quantity of uncultivated land; and the quantity of sugar, rum, and molasses produced in the island.

An Act to establish certain rates of tonnage duty for the erection of a Lighthouse, and for other improvements in St. John's Harbour. This Act was passed in order to provide for the expenses of the erection and maintenance of a lighthouse on Sandy Island, a small island lying about three miles off the harbour of St. John's.

Political Franchise.

27. The Legislative Council of Antigua consists of 24 members, viz.:—

4 ex-officio members, the Island Secretary, the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, and the Treasurer;
8 members nominated by Her Majesty; and
12 elected members.

28. The qualification for nominated and elected members is the possession of real property within the Island of the value of 66*l.* per annum, or an annual income of 200*l.* derived from a profession, trade, &c.

29. The qualifications for voters are:—For the city and towns: Owner or tenant of land or house of the value of 26*l.* per annum. For the country districts: Owner of 10 acres of land, or of 5 acres with house thereon; or owner of land of the value of 111*l.*; or tenant of land worth not less than 88*l.* per annum.

30. The Island is under the provisions of the Constitution Act of 1866, divided into 11 electoral districts, viz.:—

The City of St. John, returning	2	members.
„ Division of St. John, returning	1	„
„ „ Dickenson's Bay and Five Islands, returning	1	„
„ „ Popeshead, returning	1	„
„ „ Old Road, Bermudian Valley, and New Division, returning	1	„
„ Town of Parham, returning	1	„
„ Division of Old and New North Sound, returning	1	„
„ Division of Nonsuch, returning	1	„

The Division of Belfast, returning	-	-	1 member.
„ „ Willoughby Bay, returning	-	1	„
„ „ Falmouth and Rendezvous Bay, and towns of Falmouth and English Harbour, returning	-	1	„

31. The total number of registered voters for the Island is 324. Of these, 277 are registered for 5 electoral districts: the City of St. John's, the Division of St. John's, the Division of Old Road, the town of Parham, and the towns of Falmouth and English Harbour and Division of Rendezvous Bay; and the remaining divisions, with the number of resident registered voters, are as follows:—

Popeshead	1
Dickenson's Bay and Five Islands	6
Old and New North Sound	12
Nonsuch	5
Belfast	3
Willoughby Bay	6

32. Difficulty is sometimes experienced in getting the full number of elected members, in consequence of the paucity of voters in these districts. Double elections arising from each candidate polling one or two of the only registered voters for the district, in the Island, are not of unfrequent occurrence,

33. On the occasion of a recent vacancy in the representation of the division of Popeshead, the returning officer made the following return of the writ:—

"I do further certify that, at the time and place aforesaid, no candidate was put in nomination, there being no voter at present in the Island qualified to vote in and for the said division."

34. If it is thought desirable to continue the so-called "popular" element in the Legislative Council, it will become necessary to amend the present electoral law, and to reduce the number of electoral districts by merging the very small ones in the larger ones.

Population.

35. I subjoin a copy of my Report on the results of the census taken in this island in 1871:—

(1.) The total population of the Colony on the night of the 2nd of April, 1871, was 35,157, of whom 15,998 were males, and 19,159 females.

(2.) The population, according to the census of 1861, was 37,125, viz. 17,060 males, and 20,065 females.

(3.) The decrease in the population since the taking of the census of 1861 is 1,968, viz. 1,062 males, and 906 females, and is at the rate of 0·53 per cent. per annum.

(4.) The population of Barbuda, which island was declared a part of the Colony of Antigua in 1859, is included in the return for 1861 and 1871.

(5.) The results of the census have, to a great extent, verified the correctness of the statistical tables annually published by the Regis-

trar-General, in so far as these returns have shown that the population of Antigua has been decreasing by natural causes.

(6.) The returns of the Registrar-General show that in the 10 years from 1861 to 1870, the deaths have exceeded the births by 1,176, or at the rate of nearly 0·78 per cent. per annum. The decrease shown by the census return is larger by 792 than that shown by the Registrar-General's returns.

(7.) In the interval between the two last enumerations of the people, 1,163 immigrants, principally from Barbados, were introduced into Antigua. But there has also been, during that period, an active emigration from Antigua to Santa Cruz, Trinidad, and other places. There is no record kept of the number of persons who leave the island, but from the best information I have been able to obtain on the subject, it would appear that the number of emigrants was certainly fully equal to, if not greater than, the number of immigrants. Setting off, therefore, emigration against immigration, we may assume that the decrease of 1,968 in the population has been occasioned by the excess of deaths over births.

(8.) I may here remark that whilst the native population of the other West Indian islands has, as a general rule, increased during the last 50 or 60 years, that of Antigua has fallen off; thus in 1805 the population of Antigua was 40,300, that of Barbados 77,130. In 1871 the population of Antigua had fallen to 34,344 (excluding 813 being the population of Barbuda which did not become a part of the Colony of Antigua until 1859), that of Barbados had reached 160,000. The one had decreased in 66 years by 14·75 per cent.; the other had more than doubled itself in the same period.

(9.) A census of the Antigua population was taken in 1821, exactly 50 years ago. It will be instructive to compare the results of that census with those subsequently taken. The numbers are as follows:—

1821	37,226	exclusive of the population of the island of Barbuda.
1844	36,178	
1851	37,136	
1856	35,408	
1861	36,412	
1871	34,344	

(10.) The foregoing returns show that for many years past there has been no tendency to an increase in the population, but the contrary.

(11.) I, however, consider that the heavy falling off in the population since the last census is attributable to exceptional circumstances.

(12.) In 1862 small-pox broke out in the Colony and prevailed in an epidemic form until early in 1864. The disease ran nearly throughout the whole population, leaving no town, village, or estate unvisited. The number of deaths from the immediate effects of the disease was not, however, great in proportion to the number attacked, but there is reason to believe that the disease had an injurious effect on the constitutions of the sufferers, rendering them easy preys to diseases of subsequent occurrence. In addition to this visitation, the Colony

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suffered during the years 1863 and 1864 from the severest droughts on record, affecting agricultural operations generally to a serious extent, and almost entirely destroying the crops of ground provisions. Water was extremely scarce, and the labourer was wholly dependent for his supply on the public or estates ponds, which were in this severe season muddy, foul, and stagnant.

(13.) Under such circumstances it is not surprising to find that the Registrar-General's returns for these years showed a fearfully high death rate, and that the effects of these visitations should be traceable in after years.

(14.) The number of deaths registered in the years 1863, 1864, and 1865, was no less than 5,222 in a population of 36,412, showing an annual average death rate of 47·8 to every 1,000 of the population. The number of births registered during the same three years was 3,886, or an average annual birth rate of 35·6 to every 1,000 of the population. This contrasts favourably with other places. The birth rate of England in 1860 was 34·37 for every 1,000 of the population.

(15.) Thus Antigua in three years lost by natural causes no less than 1,336 of its population.

(16.) The corrected population at the close of 1865 was 35,084, without taking into account either immigration or emigration.

(17.) Although the heavy mortality in 1863, 1864, and 1865 was owing to exceptional causes, yet it is undeniable that there has been a tendency for many years to a decrease in the population. The death rate for those years was certainly abnormal, but the native population does not appear to have increased even under favourable circumstances.

(18.) The decrease in the population my be attributed to the following causes:—

1. The scarcity of wholesome water.
2. The scarcity of ground provisions, which form the principal article of food of the negroes in most of the other West Indian Islands, and the dearness of imported articles of food.
3. The filthy condition of the habitations of labourers, especially those located in the villages.
4. The heavy mortality among children, arising chiefly from neglect on the part of the parents.
5. The apathy and indifference manifested by the labouring class to avail themselves, when sick, of the services of a medical man, either for themselves or their families.

(19.) In my report on the Blue Book for 1863 I made the following observations in connection with the diminution of the population of this Colony. "Upwards of one-half of the labouring population live in what are called 'free villages.' In these villages, 80 in number, most of which were established immediately after the emancipation, some neat and well-ordered cottages belonging to tradesmen, small shop-keepers, and head workmen are to be seen, but in the majority of instances, especially in the villages at a distance from St. John, the plot of land purchased rarely exceeds 150 square feet in extent, and on a portion of this a wretched hovel is erected, often containing

but one room, and that unfloored and imperfectly ventilated, and in which not unfrequently five or six persons, adults and children of both sexes, sleep together at night. These evils are considerably aggravated by the great scarcity of water, the villages being wholly dependent for a supply on the ponds of the neighbourhood, the water from which, in a dry season, is generally muddy, foul, and stagnant. The position of the labourer located on the sugar estates is somewhat preferable, both in regard to his dwelling and his habits generally, to that of the villages, and as most of the estates are supplied with cisterns the privations arising from the want of good water are not so severe as in the villages.

"The subject of ameliorating the condition of the people, and of checking the extraordinary high rate of mortality, which in respect of the British West Indies seem to be peculiar to Antigua, has engrossed the serious attention of the Government, and many useful measures have of late years been passed with these objects. In the year 1860 an Act was passed for affording medical relief to the labourers. Under the provisions of this Act the children of labourers under 10 years of age, and labourers over 60, are supplied with medical aid and medicine free of charge, and the able-bodied labourer at an almost nominal rate. In the same year the sum of 3,250*l.* was expended in cleaning the ponds of this island, in order to afford, as far as was practicable, a supply of water accessible to all persons. The large sum of 7,456*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* is annually expended in the support of poor houses, hospitals, board of health, and for the purposes of medical relief, vaccination, &c.

"Nor has the Government been less regardful of the spiritual wants of the people, provision being made for the maintenance of six Rectors and seven Curates of the Established Church, besides which grants are occasionally made for the support of the other religious denominations.

"Notwithstanding these endeavours on the part of those in authority to raise the moral and sanitary condition of the people, the annual returns exhibit the unaccountable but undeniable fact that, instead of an improvement, there has been a positive retrogression in both these particulars. The labourer seems insensible of the advantages which would accrue to himself and family from free ventilation, cleanliness, and an adequate supply of pure water, and would not willingly contribute his labour or his money for either of such purposes. It has been found impossible to induce those residing in the villages to give even a couple of days' work in cleaning the ponds in the immediate vicinity of their dwellings, hence the ponds have either to be cleaned at the expense of the General Revenue, or from the want of cleaning get filled and become useless. Experience has fully shown that some legislation is absolutely necessary for protecting the labourer against the effects of his apathy and indifference to all matters relating to his sanitary condition; such interposition seems to be now imperatively called for. The negro villages might with advantage be placed under the immediate superintendence of the Board of Health, and subjected to periodical visits from the Police, so as to ensure the enforcement of the sanitary regulations of the Board. The villages might also be supplied with pure and whole-

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some water sufficient for all purposes by exacting from each male resident a given number of days' work in each year for the building and keeping in order of reservoirs, and for the making and keeping up of ponds, &c., for the use of the village.

"Improvements such as the foregoing, together with the establishment of central dispensaries, as suggested by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, would, at least, mitigate, if not entirely remove, the causes inducing the melancholy results shown in the annual returns of the Registrar-General."

(20.) Since the date of that report various measures have been passed by the Legislature for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the island. In the year 1867 the Colonial Government, at a cost of upwards of 30,000*l.*, established works for supplying the city of St. John with water. The reservoir, which is about half-a-mile from the town, is situated on an elevation of 145 feet above the level of the sea, and contains 500,000 gallons. There are 14 stand pipes in the public streets of the city from which water can be taken without any restriction both by day and night. The benefit of the works is not confined to the city, but extends to the popular villages of Gray's Hill, Gray's Farm, Greenbay, a large portion of the Five Islands district, St. Marks, and Bishops. A large and continuous supply of water has also been introduced into the Holberton hospital, the poor house and lazaretto, the lunatic asylum, the gaol, and the police office.

(21.) In the year 1868 the public extra-mural cemetery for the city of St. John was opened, and all burials within the city were forbidden from and after the 1st November in that year.

(22.) In the same year the Health Act was amended, and provision was made for the appointment of local boards of health for each parish.

(23.) In the year 1870, under the administration of Governor Sir Benjamin Pine, the laws relating to the management of the charitable institutions of the Colony and to the mode of affording medical relief to the labouring population in general, were consolidated and amended. Under the provisions of the new law the sanitary condition of the several institutions have been much improved.

(24.) Persons in charge of plantations are compelled under a penalty, which can be recovered summarily, to provide medical care and attendance for the labourers located on their estates.

(25.) Liberal provision has been made for securing the services of a qualified medical officer for each of the six parishes in the island. This officer is bound to reside within his district and to attend free of charge, either for medical services or for medicines, all children under 10, and all labourers over 60 years of age. A moderate rate of charges for medical services has been framed by the Governor in Council, so as to render the services of a medical officer available for such labourers who are not located on estates, or who are not entitled to gratuitous medical attendance.

(26.) The law also imposes a small tax on the houses in the several villages towards meeting the expense of providing such villages with medical aid and poor relief.

(27.) It is gratifying to find that these endeavours have had,

together with the more favourable seasons with which Antigua has recently been blessed, the effect of checking to some extent that high rate of mortality which has heretofore marked the vital statistics of Antigua.

(28.) The number of deaths in each of the years from 1861 to 1870 is as follows;—

Deaths.

1861	1,344
1862	1,738
1863	1,734
1864	1,750
1865	1,554
1866	1,310
1867	1,403
1868	1,546
1869	1,483
1870	1,247
	15,109

(29.) The improvement is still more marked in the Parish and City of St. John.

Deaths in St. John's, including the City.

1861	654
1862	804
1863	811
1864	682
1865	716
1866	616
1867	615
1868	619
1869	594
1870	498

(30.) The returns of burials in St. John's which have been furnished to us by the ministers of the several religious denominations corroborate the correctness of the foregoing statement:—

Burials.

	Anglican.	Moravians.	Wesleyans.	Total.
1861	484	124	49	654
1862	592	149	63	804
1863	600	148	63	811
1864	541	103	41	685
1865	565	97	57	719
1866	473	89	52	614
1867	477	87	51	615
1868	483	90	46	619
1869	459	94	41	594
1870	392	76	30	498

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(31). The returns of births for the ten years are as follows:—

1861	1,326
1862	1,072
1863	1,407
1864	1,407
1865	1,417
1866	1,353
1867	1,531
1868	1,375
1869	1,477
1870	1,568
	13,933

Males and Females.

(32.) To every 1,000 females of all ages, there are 835 males of all ages. This great disparity in the number of females may in some degree be explained by the emigration of the males to other Colonies. The proportion in 1861 was 1,000 females to every 850 males.

Houses and Families.

(33.) The term "house" includes negro houses of all kinds and sizes in the town, villages, and on the estates. Some of these are, as I have before stated, mere hovels. Inhabited houses are 9,625, the uninhabited 1,049. The number of families is 9,833, giving 3·57 persons to each family, and 3·65 to each house. In 1861 the numbers were, inhabited houses 9,927, families 9,786, giving 3·8 persons to every family, and 3·73 persons to each house.

The decrease since 1861 is 302 inhabited houses and 157 families. The uninhabited houses were 837 in 1861. In 1871 they were 1,049, showing an increase of 212.

Marriages, &c.

(34.) In 1861 the number of married persons was 8,775, widowers 1,261, widows 1,615. In 1871 the number was, married 7,469, widowers, 800, and widows, 1,973.

The number of unmarried persons above 20, is 9,724. This will sufficiently account for the number of illegitimate births, which are on an average 60 per cent. of the entire births.

Deaf, Dumb, and Blind.

(35.) The number of deaf, dumb, and blind persons was,

	Deaf.	Dumb.	Blind.
1861	73	21	96
1871	57	15	104

Charitable Institutions.

(36.) The number of inmates in the Holberton Hospital, Poor House, and Lazaretto at the taking of the census of 1871 was 220.

Lunatic Asylnm.

The number of lunatics in the lunatic asylum was 45.

Gaol.

The number of prisoners in gaol was 69.

Occupations of the People.

(37.) The preponderance of females over the male sex is again shown under this head. The total number of agricultural labourers is 13,975, of whom 6,368 are males, and 7,607 are females. The number of domestic servants is 1,744, of whom 615 are males, and 1,129 females. The tailors number 223. The sempstresses 1,738; and the pedlars 63 males, and 344 females.

(38.) The clerical profession is represented by 9 ministers of the Anglican Church, 1 of the Church of Rome, 3 Wesleyan Church, and 9 of the Moravian Church.

(39.) The medical profession comprises 7 practitioners of medicines and surgery, 12 chemists and druggists, and 36 midwives.

Complexion.

(40.) Of the total population 26,386 are black, 2,146 white, and 6,625 coloured. The decrease since the Census of 1861 is as follows: —Black, 1297; white, 414; and 257 coloured.

Religion.

(41.) The members belonging to the religious denominations are as follows:—Anglican Church, 18,243, or 51·9 per cent. of the total population; Roman Church, 916 or 2·6 per cent.; Moravian Church, 10,006 or 28·47 per cent.; Wesleyan Church, 5,723 or 16·29 per cent. Persons not described 269 or 0·74 per cent.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

36. The returns of the Registrar-General for 1873 show that the total number of deaths registered was 1,563, being a decrease as compared with the previous year of 271. The births registered were 1,677, against 1,693 in 1872.

37. The registered births and deaths include stillborn children, which numbered 177 in 1871, 226 in 1872, and 234 in 1873, being in the respective proportions of 11·09, 13·34, and 13·95 per cent. of the live births.

38. The death rate for the last three years has been:—

	1871.	1872.	1873.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Inclusive of stillborn - - -	4·65	5·07	4·44
Exclusive - - - -	4·44	44·3	3·78

39. The birth rate has been:—

Inclusive of stillborn - - -	4·54	4·81	4·77
Exclusive - - - -	4·03	4·17	4·1

40. Of the total births in 1873, 1120 or 66·78 per cent., were illegitimate.

41. The number of deaths among children under 1 year was 617 in 1871, 733 in 1872, and 640 in 1873.

42. The high death rate of 1872 may be attributed to the severe privations to which the labouring class were subjected by the hurricane which visited the island on the 21st August, 1871.

43. The number of marriages registered was 155; in 1872 it was 172, and in 1871, 220.

44. The causes of death are classified thus by Dr. Thibou, the Registrar-General:

Causes of Death.	No of Deaths.	Adults.		Under 14 and over 1 year.		1 year and under.		Complexion.		
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
Zymotic (epidemic, endemic, or contagious) or eruptive fevers	141	23	30	19	22	21	26	100	12	29
Dropsy, cancer, and other diseases of uncertain or variable seat	99	38	40	7	12	1	1	87	5	7
Tubercular diseases	99	38	51	1	7	1	1	73	6	20
Diseases of the brain, spinal marrow, nerves, and senses	138	36	29	8	13	37	15	104	4	30
Diseases of the heart and blood-vessels	76	37	37	1	—	—	1	57	4	15
Diseases of the lungs and other organs of respiration	120	25	26	12	12	19	26	89	6	25
Diseases of the stomach, liver, and other organs of digestion	362	55	65	42	47	82	71	291	15	56
Diseases of the kidneys	10	4	5	—	1	—	—	6	1	3
Childbirth, diseases of the womb, &c.	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	5	1	2
Rheumatism, diseases of the bones, joints, &c.	8	3	4	1	—	—	—	7	—	1
Diseases of the skin, cellular tissues, &c.	29	9	14	4	—	2	—	22	2	5
Malformations	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
Premature birth and debility	92	4	2	3	2	44	37	80	1	11
Atrophy	16	2	1	2	2	1	8	13	—	3
Age	98	32	66	—	—	—	—	87	1	10
Sudden	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Violence, privation, poison, intemperance, &c.	17	6	4	3	1	—	3	13	1	3
Stillborn	234	—	—	—	—	147	87	196	8	30
Causes not specified	13	2	3	1	—	3	4	8	2	3
Total	1,563	315	385	104	119	358	282	1,240	69	254

Savings Bank.

45. The following return shows the condition of this institution on the 31st December, 1873:—

	£	s.	d.
Due to depositors	11,313	0	9
Lodged in Colonial Bank	2,211	13	4
Invested in local treasury	8,890	15	1
Cash balance	210	12	4
	£11,313	0	9

Education.

46. The following is a summary of the number of schools and the number of scholars.

Denomination.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Church of England	19	684	644	1,328
Moravian	19	850	807	1,657
Wesleyan	9	380	352	732
Total	47	1,914	1,803	3,717

47. The Government grant in aid of these schools is 1,000*l.* per annum.

Ecclesiastical Returns.

48. The following return gives the number of churches, chapels, and clergymen belonging to each religious denomination in the Presidency:—

Denomination.	No. of Clergy.	No. of Chapels and Churches.
Church of England - -	10	13
Roman Catholic - - - -	1	1
Moravian - - - -	9	9
Wesleyan - - - - -	3	11
Presbyterian - - - -	—	1

49. The amount paid from the public treasury for the maintenance of the Church of England amounts to 3,527*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* The Church will, however, as has been stated in paragraph 26, be disestablished and disendowed on the 1st January next, saving the vested rights of the present incumbents to their respective stipends.

50. The Moravian Church receives an annual allowance of 133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for the maintenance of one of its ministers at Nonsuch. This grant will cease on the death or retirement of the present incumbent.

51. The Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan Churches receive no allowance from the revenue.

Imports and Exports.

52. The following is a return of the value of the imports and exports during the last ten years:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1864 - - - -	171,589 -	80,833
1865 - - - -	160,571 -	192,682
1866 - - - -	187,704 -	291,860
1867 - - - -	189,880 -	141,076
1868 - - - -	169,900 -	273,706
1869 - - - -	174,436 -	200,723
1870 - - - -	164,178 -	234,511
1871 - - - -	175,740 -	247,630
1872 - - - -	200,757 -	153,190
1873 - - - -	169,156 -	170,797

53. The increased value of the imports in 1872 may be attributed to exceptional circumstances, consequent on the hurricane in the previous year, which necessitated a much larger importation of articles of food, timber, &c.

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54. The following table exhibits the increase or decrease in 1873 in the importation of the principal articles of consumption, as compared with the previous year:—

Articles.	1872.		1873.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
FOOD—				
Flour	19,106 brls.	23,847	14,895 brls.	22,327
Corn meal	19,676 „	19,676	12,242 „	12,242
Rice	575,302 lbs.	2,876	275,659 lbs.	1,516
Bread and biscuit	453,608 „	4,536	196,404 „	1,964
Beef	32,555 „	814	27,228 „	680
Pork	374,637 „	9,365	345,690 „	8,642
Hams, bacon, &c.	23,736 „	1,186	17,833 „	891
Fish, dried	12,102 cwt.	12,120	8,864 cwt.	8,864
„ pickled	5,017 brls.	4,181	3,300 brls.	3,300
Butter	66,488 lbs.	3,324	53,769 lbs.	2,686
Cheese	34,390 „	1,289	20,194 „	757
Coffee	26,578 „	664	22,191 „	739
Cocoa	36,325 „	908	32,915 „	822
Tea	4,620 „	472	3,899 „	487
Sugar, refined	17,285 „	432	16,008 „	400
Peas and beans	3,439 bus.	687	2,370 bus.	592
Potatoes	1,373 brls.	343	893 brls.	357
Total values	—	86,720	—	67,266
WINES, &C.—				
Wine	—	1,582	—	1,067
Ale, beer, &c.	—	2,516	—	1,025
Brandy	5,030 gals.	2,515	4,660 gals.	2,330
Gin	2,749 „	550	6,769 „	1,553
Sweetened spirits	33 „	13	73 „	32
Total values	—	7,176	—	6,007
TOBACCO—				
Cigars	225 lbs.	56	304 lbs.	84
Leaf tobacco	47,377 „	1,183	100,403 „	3,346
Manufactured	201 „	20	—	—
Total values	—	1,259	—	3,430
WOOD—				
White pine and spruce	1,957,074 ft.	5,871	757,148 ft.	3,028
Pitch pine	403,410 „	2,017	501,308 „	2,757
Shingles — cypress and wallaba	1,671,250 „	1,671	1,065,244 „	1,171
Shingles—cedar and pine	598,350 „	299	337,730 „	202
Wood hoops	260,315 „	1,301	293,140 „	1,758
„ staves	168,499 „	1,347	169,209 „	1,353
„ shocks without heads	6,098 pkts.	914	3,798 pkts.	759
„ „ with heads	940 „	188	1,067 „	268
Total values	—	13,608	—	11,306
Corn	46,700 bus.	9,340	28,358 bus.	7,089
Oats	1,609 „	321	1,350 „	337
Oil-cake	327,085 lbs.	1,635	449,208 lbs.	2,246
Total values	—	11,296	—	9,672
Unenumerated articles	—	68,355	—	62,761

55. This return shows that a reduction of no less than 22 per cent. has taken place in the importation and consumption of articles of human food.

56. The following return shows the quantity of sugar exported during the last ten years :—

Year.	Hogsheads.
1864	3,354
1865	9,524
1866	17,300
1867	7,000
1868	12,677
1869	10,370
1870	12,674
1871	13,261
1872	7,735
1873	9,625

giving an average of 10,352 hogsheads.

57. The largest crop ever produced was in 1834, in which year 20,921 hogsheads were shipped; the smallest was in 1864, when only 3,354 hogsheads were exported.

58. It is to be feared that the crop of 1874 will not reach 6,000 hogsheads.

59. The value and direction of trade for the last three years is as follows :—

Countries.	1871.		1872.		1873.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	77,580	207,893	65,370	128,237	41,076	126,162
British North America	13,338	10,181	18,281	3,551	11,217	2,958
Barbados	59,239	4,491	57,946	4,164	72,141	2,560
Other West Indies	5,100	20,441	7,122	7,476	3,568	28,182
United States	14,122	2,732	48,418	6,518	35,839	7,963
Other foreign countries	6,361	1,891	3,260	3,246	5,315	2,970
£	175,740	247,629	200,757	153,192	169,156	170,795

Shipping.

60. The following is a summary of the returns of shipping for the last five years :—

Year.	Entered.			Cleared.		
	No.	Tonnage.	Crews.	No.	Tonnage.	Crews.
1869	471	25,509	2,127	472	26,185	2,219
1870	422	25,228	2,075	423	24,977	2,133
1871	432	29,405	2,180	428	29,399	2,204
1872	446	27,293	2,171	465	26,678	2,224
1873	437	25,117	2,176	452	25,803	2,250

Agriculture.

61. Owing to the droughts with which Antigua has been visited, the production of sugar, which is the only staple of the Island, has within the last two years fallen very considerably below the average of former years.

62. The cultivation of cotton has been almost entirely abandoned.

63. The Island contains about 68,000 acres, 18,086 of which are in cane or other cultivation. There are 143 sugar estates in cultivation, 28 of which have steam works; 34 sugar estates have passed through the West India Incumbered Estates Court since 1864.

64. The rate of agricultural wages is small, varying from 8*d.* to 1*s.* a day; but the latter rate is only paid to immigrants from Barbados. Women employed in field work earn about 6*d.* a day.

65. In 1872 and 1873 many labourers were thrown out of regular work on the estates after the crop had been reaped. Employment was, however, found for them on Government works, such as repairing the highways, cleaning ponds, &c., and by this means much relief was afforded to them. The want of employment has, however, given rise to an active emigration after crop to Porto Rico, Grenada, and Trinidad.

Rainfall.

66. The average rainfall for 1873 was only 34·96 inches. The greatest quantity of rain appears, from the returns before me, to have fallen on the southern part of the Island, where the rainfall was 39·32 inches. The lowest was in the northern district, where only 31·62 inches fell. The rainfall of the two preceding years was 42·98 and 43·94 respectively.

Gaols, Prisoners, and Criminal Statistics.

67. The number of prisoners committed for penal punishment shows a decrease of 8 as compared with the previous year, being 818 in 1873, against 826 in 1872.

68. In the number of re-commitments there has been an increase:

	1872.	1873.
Once - - -	131	180
Twice - - -	52	57
Thrice or more -	171	199
	354	436

The majority of re-commitments were for prædial larcenies.

69. The juvenile offenders committed were 181 in 1872, and 175 in 1873.

70. The total number of commitments in 1872 and 1873 is as follows:—

	1872.	1873.
For debt - - - - -	18	43
For safe custody till trial, or for want of bail - - - - -	69	167
For penal punishment - -	826	818

71. The number of commitments in the superior Courts for the last three years is as follows:—

	1871.	1872.	1873.
For offences against the person -	21	16	13
For prædial larceny. For offences against property, other than prædial larceny - - - -	19	31	33
For other offences - - -	6	7	28

72. The number of summary convictions during the same period:

	1871.	1872.	1873.
For offences against the person -	1,390	1,272	1,200
For prædial larceny - - -	145	265	299
For offences against property, other than prædial larceny -	551	979	613
For other offences - - -	2,562	2,710	2,522

Charitable Institutions.

73. Under the provisions of the Medical and Poor Relief Act, which came into operation in January, 1871, the three several Boards appointed under the former law for the management of the Lunatic Asylum, the Holberton Hospital, the Poor-house, and Lazaretto, were abolished, and these institutions were placed under the control of a single Board consisting of the senior medical officer of the institutions, and three other paid officers of the Crown.

74. The following is a return showing the number of persons in the hospital, and the number of paupers receiving out-door relief at the close of the past three years:—

	1871.	1872.	1873.
Poor-house - - - -	171	251	210
Holberton Hospital - - -	62	87	31
Leper Hospital - - -	18	19	19
Receiving out-door relief - -	150	147	189
Total - -	401	504	449

75. Three lunatics were removed from Montserrat, six from Dominica, and three from Nevis, under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act, No. 3, of 1872. The number of inmates in the asylum on the 31st December was 48; viz., Antigua, 35; Dominica, 6; Nevis, 3; Montserrat, 4.

76. The aggregate cost of maintaining the institutions amounted in 1873 to 5,254*l.*

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Library.

77. The Public Library was originally established as a private association, and an Act was passed in 1839 for its incorporation. In the year 1854 the affairs of the Library Society having become much embarrassed, the trustees offered to make over to the Island Government all the books, over 5,000 in number, library furniture, &c., as well as the extensive buildings and land belonging to the institution, in consideration of a payment of 440*l.*, which sum was required to meet the claims against the society. The value of the premises, books, furniture, &c., made over, was estimated at 3,625*l.* The offer was accepted, and an Act was passed for taking over the property, and the library was kept up under the name of the Public Library.

78. The upper part of the building was retained as the library, and the lower part has been for many years past used as the customs and Treasury offices, for which it is most conveniently adapted, and by this arrangement the Island has been saved the expense of hiring or purchasing buildings for the use of those departments.

79. The library is under the direction of nine trustees appointed by the Governor. The annual rates of subscription are 20*s.* for first-class, 12*s.* for second-class, and 8*s.* for third-class subscribers. The salary of the clerk, 80*l.* per annum, is paid from the Treasury, and a further sum of 50*l.* is annually voted by the Legislature for the maintenance of the library. There are at present 5,630 volumes in the library. The leading British newspapers and magazines, as well as newspapers published in the neighbouring islands, are taken.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) EDWIN BAYNES, President of Antigua.

NEVIS.

NEVIS.

No. 6.

No. 6.

Governor IRVING, C.B., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Leeward Islands,
Antigua, July 27, 1874.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Presidency of Nevis with a letter from the President forwarding the same

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY T. IRVING.
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 6.

PRESIDENT CAMPBELL to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

President's office,
SIR, Nevis, July 15, 1874.

Herewith I beg to forward in duplicate the Blue Book of this Presidency for the year 1873.

2. I am unable to furnish the usual report thereon owing to the destruction by fire of nearly all the Official Documents and Records which would have rendered such report reliable. My late arrival at this Presidency is also an additional reason for my not being able to furnish any report.

I have, &c.,
The Colonial Secretary, (Signed) MELFORT CAMPBELL.
&c. &c. &c.

ST. KITTS.

No. 7.

Governor IRVING, C.B., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
MY LORD, July 27, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Presidency of St. Kitts, with a Report thereon by the President of that Island.

I have, &c.,
The Earl of Carnarvon, (Signed) HENRY T. IRVING,
&c. &c. &c. Governor.

Enclosure in No. 7.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1873.

Finance.

1. The only change which took place in the sources of Revenue was in the article of salt. Previously to 1873, the export tax on salt was 1*d.* per barrel, under Act No. 95, and ½*d.*, under Act No. 152, together equivalent to ½*d.* per bushel; and, further, a tonnage duty on the exporting vessel of 1*s.* 6*d.* per ton.

The change effected by Act No. 4, of 1873, was the total abolition of the tonnage duty on the exporting vessel, provided nothing but salt is comprised in the cargo; and, in lieu of all other tax, an export

ST. KITTS.

duty of 5 per cent. on the declared value of the salt is imposed, and paid by the shipper or exporter, on the exportation thereof; the average selling price of such salt being about 1*s.* per bushel, the export duty on which is six tenths of a penny.

2. The estimated Revenue for 1873 was calculated to give - - - - - - £27,766 2 1
The Revenue realized was - - - - 24,748 18 10

Thus falling short - - - - - £3,017 3 3
The estimated expenditure it was calculated would be - - - - - - - £33,343 16 10
It however reached - - - - - 34,424 7 8

Or an excess of - - - - - - £1,080 10 10

Under the head of Revenue there was a falling off in—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imports - - - -	1,499	17	7
Exports - - - - -	385	0	6
Cavalry tax - - - -	259	6	9
Export tonnage - - - -	222	17	8
Inward tonnage - - -	339	13	4
Fines and fees - - - -	19	1	6
Licences - - - - -	177	6	8
Post-office - - - - -	6	18	11
Miscellaneous - - - -	193	15	8
	£3,103	18	7
And an increase in Basseterre Loan - - - - - -	86	15	4
	£3,017	3	3

Under that of Expenditure, there was an increase over the estimate for

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue Department - - - -	27	13	9
General Government of Leeward Islands -	136	17	3
Judicial - - - - - - -	129	8	6
Ecclesiastical - - - - - -	112	10	3
Police and Gaols - - - - -	393	6	0
Works and Buildings - - - - -	229	19	7
Roads, Streets, and Bridges - - -	1,139	3	5
Basseterre Loan - - - - -	316	17	4
Drawbacks - - - - - -	23	7	8
Members attending Federal Council - -	10	8	4
	£2,519	12	1

And a saving in the following:—

	£	s.	d.
President	34	5	6
Post Office	17	12	1
Springfield Cemetery	17	8	11
Town Warden	5	0	8
Educational	16	6	8
Medical Department	50	0	0
Fire Company	34	19	11
Hospitals	310	9	6
Pensions, &c.	63	6	2
Charitable Allowances	0	2	2
Miscellaneous	241	1	10
Interest	66	0	0
Improvement of town of Basseterre	423	5	5
Sanitary and Registration	94	4	6
Militia	64	16	11
	£1,439	1	3

3. The comparative Revenue and Expenditure for the last two years were as follows:—

Revenue for 1872	£26,364	6	0
„ „ 1873	24,748	18	10
Showing a falling of	£1,615	7	2
Expenditure for 1872	£32,420	7	8
„ „ 1873	34,424	7	8
Or an increase of	£2,004	0	0

At the end of the year 1872 there was a large stock of merchandize on hand, and although the export of produce was greater in 1873 than in the previous year, and realized 1,148*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* more, still the falling off in the duties on imports, in consequence of the inflated stock in 1872, amounted to 1,318*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, and the result was a diminution of revenue in the customs' duties of 169*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*

Liquor licences, including the retail of rum, were exchanged for those of smaller amounts, which excluded the sale of that spirit, and some lapsed, involving under that head a loss of 285*l.*

The balance of a debenture loan, amounting to 900*l.*, with interest, having been unexpectedly redeemed at the close of 1872, the receipts under that head, in 1873, exhibit a decrease of that amount, and the consequent loss of interest to the Island Treasury for the remainder of the 20 years for which the loan had been effected.

In consequence, also, of the deposits in the Colonial Bank. on general account being gradually utilized, during the year, for the increased expenditure unavoidably incurred, the interest, amounting to 270*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, was lost on that account.

The increase in the expenditure was owing to the employment of a greater number of rural constables, and of penal gang drivers, and a

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larger contract for prison supplies; the payment to the Provost-Marshal of a fixed salary in lieu of fees; the establishment of an hospital at Sandy Point, which has proved an immense boon to the afflicted poor of that district; by a pension being granted to the President of the late Assembly; by the purchase of a traction engine, and necessary repairs to roads and sea-walls.

The vigorous efforts made in 1873 to complete the Basseterre Water Works, absorbed a large amount of the balance in the Treasury provided for that useful work, and although warrants were issued for the payment of all outstanding accounts, the whole amounts were not claimed before the close of the year, and will have to appear in the present year's expenditure.

Debentures and interest on the Basseterre building loan, amounting to 387*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*, were paid off in 1873, which should have been retired in 1872.

There was an increase in the charge for the Civil establishment of the Leeward Islands of 264*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, and an increase of 365*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* for president and clerks, owing to these charges being paid in full for 1873, while in the previous year the charge was only required for nine months.

The total of the sums above referred to, with some minor charges, amounts to 5,232*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, against which appears a decrease in the expenditure of 1873, compared with 1872, of 3,228*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, the principal reduction being in the charge for ecclesiastical purposes, amounting to 2,003*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* The hurricane of 1871 did so much damage to the churches, as well as to the school-houses in the island, that the Legislature, with the sanction of Government, voted money for the repair and restoration of each, according to circumstances. Of such votes, 2,193*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* were spent in 1872, and 764*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* in 1873; a small amount will also appear in the accounts for the present year, and I believe I may confidently report that, with ordinary care, no charge of any consequence will henceforth be made on the public treasury on that account, as "An Act to disestablish and to "regulate the gradual disendowment of the Church of England in "Saint Christopher and Anguilla, and for other purposes," has been passed, and the care and future cost of these structures will henceforth be placed in a Church Council to be appointed for that and cognate duties and obligations, the salaries of the present incumbents, and all other vested rights, having been duly preserved.

The cash balance remaining in the Treasury on the 31st December, 1873, was 8,849*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, embracing the following items:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
General Revenue	1,760	18	11
Immigration Fund	3,646	13	5
Savings Banks Deposits	705	0	4
Police Reward Fund	281	19	6
Claim on Improvement Fund	188	9	3
Building Loan Account	1,970	10	3
Postage Stamp Account	296	5	1
	£8,849	16	9

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4. It is always most desirable that the estimates of the probable receipts and expenditure, for any given year, should approach accuracy; but after my long experience of a West India climate, and the recent knowledge I have acquired in this Colony, I venture to say that it is, at the least, most hazardous to predict the revenue of an exclusively sugar-growing island for a year in advance, if, as is required by the Colonial Regulations, the annual estimates be framed by the month of June. I am not aware how my predecessors calculated the anticipated revenue for 1873, but when I was called upon in July last to prepare the estimates for 1874, there could not have been presented to the experienced eye a finer prospect of an abundant crop, and I based my calculations on an average of three years' crops. From the month of July, however, down to December, a severe drought prevailed, which, depriving the cane of the needful moisture at its most critical age, stopped all growth, disappointed the expectations of the most experienced planters, and the result of the year's labour will, I fear, fall short of my reasonable calculations by perhaps nearly 2,000 hogsheads of sugar. I would, therefore, respectfully suggest that, in this Presidency, where the revenue depends principally on the exports, and, to some extent, on the equivalent imports, the estimates for the following year should not be required before September or October; in either of which months a fair and reliable judgment may be formed of the crop likely to be reaped in the following year.

Debt.

5. The total debt of the Presidency amounts to 7,200*l.* This is the balance of the sum of 9,200*l.* raised by debentures in December, 1869, to assist those who desired to borrow money to enable them to rebuild their house property destroyed by the fire of 1867. Upon these debentures interest is secured at the rate of 6 per cent., payable from the general revenue, and to meet that charge, and the cost of insurance, &c., 10 per cent. is charged to, and made payable half-yearly by the borrower.

Sections Nos. 7 and 10 of Act No. 10 of 1869 are as follows:—

Manner of repaying Loan.

"7. The Governor shall appropriate annually out of the general revenue of the Colony for the payment of interest such sums as shall be equal to 6 per cent. on the total amount of debentures then in circulation, and he shall further appropriate annually a sum equal to one-twentieth part of the gross amount of debt contracted under this Act. Which sums shall be applied to the payment of interest and towards the extinction of the debt by twenty equal drawings in twenty years.

Money raised by Loan and interest thereon to be a first charge on the General Revenue and assets of the Colony.

"10. All and singular the sum and sums of money borrowed or raised under and by virtue of this Act, together with such interest as shall from time to time accrue thereon shall be, and the same are hereby charged upon the general revenue and assets of the said Colony preferably to any other charges whatever thereupon."

Military Expenditure.

6. The Militia is composed of two troops of cavalry and a horse artillery corps. The strength of the cavalry is five officers and fifty-

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three privates; and of the horse artillery, two officers and twenty-two privates, with a lieutenant-colonel, staff-surgeon, quartermaster and adjutant, and a drill-instructor. The several estates in the Presidency are bound to furnish the men and horses, finding their own equipments and clothing, 25*l.* being annually paid from the cavalry (export) tax to each estate furnishing a trooper, and 30*l.* for each horse artilleryman, in quarterly payments. The arms and ammunition are furnished by the Government.

This is an efficient and well appointed body. They attend compulsory drill eight times in the year, and at such other times as the Governor may consider necessary for the preservation of good order; and all of its members being intimately interested in the well-being of the Island, it is thought that no more reliable protective force could be devised for security to life and property, as the landowner or his attorney is naturally a zealous guardian of the public interests.

Works and Buildings.

7. Irrespective of petty repairs to the various public buildings, the following amounts, above 100*l.*, have been expended for the works respectively named:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For Cunningham Hospital - -	101	16	2
„ Treasury Pier - - - -	279	4	9
„ Roads, streets, and bridges - -	1,726	7	11
„ Pump Bay Wall - - - -	253	4	7

and of the original estimated cost for the Basseterre Water-works amounting to 15,387*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*, the sum of 10,785*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* had been paid up to the 31st December, 1873, 3,576*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* of that amount having been paid in the latter year. The total sum expended in 1873 on the public works and buildings amounted to 6,620*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*

The completion of the Water-works, which were commenced in 1870, and which convey into the town of Basseterre from the hills, at a distance of upwards of 5½ miles, an element so necessary to health and comfort, and essential for the subjugation of the sister element of fire, is an event worthy of special notice and congratulation, and Governor Irving evinced his interest and pleasure in the accomplished fact by personally and publicly opening them, on the 20th December last, amidst the expression of much joy and satisfaction.

Besides the length of piping from the weir to the reservoir in town, which is capable of containing 516,000 gallons of water, a similar length, or 5½ miles, of service pipes have been laid down in the principal streets and lanes of the city, and 162 hydrants attached to the mains, from which a copious volume of water can be thrown over the highest building. A short account of the opening ceremony, taken from one of the weekly newspapers, is hereto appended.

Education.

I annex the last report of the state of education here, submitted to me by the Inspector of Schools on the 27th February last. I have

visited several of these schools during the past year, and attended the annual examinations, and I can very fully corroborate the conclusions at which Mr. Marshal has arrived.

When the Federal Education Act, so recently passed, comes into operation, it will be interesting to watch its effect, and whether more energy and emulation will be infused into the teachers than now exists under our Local Act, which in most particulars has hitherto worked satisfactorily.

My own opinion, held now for some years, is that if real and widespread advantages are to be obtained in the West Indies, a compulsory, combined with a bonâ fide industrial education, must be inaugurated and insisted upon, and with a little trouble I believe that such is capable of attainment.

Population.

9. The census returns, taken on the 2nd April, 1871, gave the population as numbering—

Males - - - -	13,259
Females - - - -	14,910
Total - - -	28,169

The excess of births over deaths since that date up to the 31st December, 1872, was 83; and to the same date in 1873, 214—total, 297; which added to the above census returns shows a present population of 28,466.

The births for 1873 are given in the Registrar's return at 1,237, the deaths at 1,023, and the marriages at 131.

There appears to have been heretofore no classification of the sexes, the cause of death, and the age of the deceased, tabulated from the Registrar's return by the Registrar-General; but I have given directions that such tables be prepared for future use.

Imports and Exports.

10. The value of the imports and exports for the year 1873 from and to the several places mentioned are presented in the following Table:—

Countries.	Imports from.			Exports to.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - - - -	75,612	6	0	155,375	19	9
British West Indies - - - - -	21,716	2	8	9,258	8	9
„ North America - - -	9,684	19	9	1,620	5	11
Foreign countries - - - - -	—			—		
„ West Indies - - - -	5,290	15	6	11,570	6	9
United States of America - - -	50,051	8	6	2,138	8	1
	£162,355	12	5	179,963	9	3

The tonnage employed inwards was as follows:—

With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		Men.
Vesssls.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	
622	22,580	245	7,551	867	30,131	4,242

The tonnage outwards was—

With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		Men.
Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	
710	24,636	159	5,638	869	30,274	4,282

Agriculture.

11. There are 135 estates, containing 18,507 acres of arable land, under cultivation, principally in sugar-cane, small portions of which, however, are annually planted with sweet potatoes, arrowroot, tous-les-mois, cassava, and ground-nuts. I think it a subject for regret that more of the lands on the heights is not utilized in the cultivation of cocoa and tobacco, the latter being luxuriant in a wild state; but it is difficult to move men to venture from the beaten track to which they have been for long accustomed, especially when the great majority of estates, as in the case of St. Christopher, are the property of absentees, or so mortgaged as, to a great extent, to tie the hands and cramp the energies of—the great desideratum—an independent body of local proprietors.

Criminal Statistics.

12. The year under review appears to be the first in which these statistics have been collected. The number of persons summarily convicted before the Magistrates' Courts, or sent to a Supreme Court, were as follows:—

Offences.	No. of Persons Summarily Convicted.	No. Sent for Trial in Supreme Court.
Against the person - - - - - -	334	28
Prædial larceny - - - - - - -	90	—
Against property other than prædial larceny -	276	40
Against Master and Servants' Act - - -	102	—
Other offence - - - - - - - -	1,198	13
	2,000	81

In the case of these summary convictions, the following punishments were inflicted:—

By fine - - - - - - - -	1,544
„ imprisonment in lieu of fine - - -	274
„ peremptory imprisonment - - -	150
„ whipping - - - - - -	6
„ being bound over - - - -	26
	2,000

Of the 36 convictions in the Supreme Court, 1 was for manslaughter, 2 for rape, 1 for unnatural crime, 13 for other offences against the person, 10 for prædial larceny, 8 for other offences against property, and 1 unclassified. For 20 judgment was pronounced in favour of the prisoners, and 2 cases fell through.

Hospitals and Charitable Institutions.

13. The Cunningham Hospital in Basseterre, and the new Hospital at Sandy Point, are most useful, and in most respects admirable institutions. The daily average of sick, destitute, and aged persons sheltered in the former building during the year was 113, and in the latter 14. There were in the Cunningham Hospital on 1st January, 1873, 111 persons; admitted during the year, 279; died, 49; discharged, 238; and remaining in hospital on 31st December, 103.

Attached to this Hospital, but in separate buildings, a daily average number of 12 lunatics were treated. During the year 5 were discharged cured, and 2 relieved, and 6 died. Ten patients remained in the asylum on the 31st December last.

In August, 1872, the Sandy Point Hospital was established under the management and supervision of Dr. Semper, with a view, in the first place, to meet the requirements of the labouring population at the west end of the Island; and secondly, as a tentative measure, the result of which might be a guide as to whether a multiplication of such district hospitals would conduce to improvement in the general sanitary condition of the poor, and a more economical distribution of the annual grant for charitable purposes. So far this Hospital has been a marked success, and many lives have been saved which otherwise would have succumbed to poverty and a want of proper and continuous medical attention. The number of patients admitted to 31st December last was 53; the number on 1st January, 1873, was 9; the number of deaths during the year was 10; those discharged numbered 39, and 18 remained in hospital on 31st December, 1873.

The cost to the Presidency for the support of these institutions was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
For salaries at Cunningham Hospital -	355	0	0
„ maintenance, including medicines, &c. -	1,996	9	7
„ salaries at Sandy Point Hospital -	70	0	0
„ maintenance, including medicines, &c. -	339	17	6
	£2,761	7	1

In addition to those relieved within the Cunningham Hospital, Dr. Boon, the superintendent, has 84 indigent sick and infirm poor, and 46 lepers on his list, who are inspected weekly, receive such medicines as the doctor thinks advisable, and from one to two shillings each in cash to assist in providing them with the necessaries of life. On these poor 160*l.* are spent during the year.

A third method of affording relief to the distressed and aged poor has been adopted since my arrival here. I found forty-two of these poor and nearly helpless people in town fed by a contractor at the

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rate of 2*s.* per week each, and the food supplied was of the poorest. Having taken the management into my own hands, I hired a respectable woman, appointed one gentleman from each of the four religious denominations here to assist me, had an overhaul of the pauper list, struck off a few, and admitted many others, after a medical report; purchased flour, meal, rice, pease, and fish wholesale, contracted with a butcher for the supply of fresh meat, and now eighty-five poor people are supplied daily with one sufficient meal of good materials at a cost of not more than 1*s.* 4*d.* each weekly. This arrangement cannot, however, be carried out in the country districts, where the assistance of ladies could not be secured, as I am able to do in town; but eighty-three more of the destitute are fed by contract in the rural districts.

The total cost of this food supply is paid for by an annual grant of 900*l.* from the Treasury, 160*l.* of which are, as I have already stated, given to the Superintendent of the Cunningham Hospital, and expended as before mentioned, the balance being used for the relief of the destitute in town and country.

14. A serious epidemic of dysentery was experienced during the past year, raising the death-rate considerably above the average, which was, however, counterbalanced by an excessive number of births. The people, although otherwise suffering from the drought of three years in succession, and their consequent straitened pecuniary circumstances, were peaceable and orderly, and were thankful for the help which was liberally bestowed upon them and their families.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) Alex. W. Moir, President.

APPENDIX No. I.

'The Advertiser.'

"Reginæ et Populo."

FOR THE QUEEN AND THE PEOPLE.

Basseterre, Tuesday, December 23, 1873.

We have at last, after years of patient waiting, the pleasure of announcing to the public and to our friends elsewhere, that the Baseterre Waterworks have been formally opened.

On Saturday, the 20th inst., the Windward troop of Militia Cavalry having been detached by Lieut.-Colonel Berridge as an escort, His Excellency Governor Irving, accompanied by Mrs. Moir, the President, and the private secretary, drove to the reservoir above Lagrate, where a number of ladies and gentlemen had assembled to receive his Excellency and to be present at the ceremony.

After alighting, his Excellency walked round the reservoir, accompanied by Mr. Treasurer Evelyn, who is now acting as Chairman of the Water Commissioners in the absence of the Hon. James Berridge, and who pointed out the track of the pipes from the mountains to the delivery-pipe, which was then discharging the refreshing element into the reservoir, it being about three-fourths full.

His Excellency and the attendant company having descended to

the front of the Valve House, President Moir, who wore the uniform of a colonel of volunteers, spoke in the following terms:—

"Your Excellency; it affords me much pleasure now to ask you to formally open the Basseterre Waterworks, the construction of which, a few days ago, has been brought to a successful termination.

"I may mention that subsequently to the calamitous fire of July 3, 1867, which destroyed nearly the whole of Basseterre, owing to the insufficiency of water supplied by the Old Waterworks, it was thought advisable that a better supply should be introduced into the town. Steps were accordingly taken to ascertain the best place from which water could be got, and the feasibility of obtaining an abundant flow from the Easternmost Old Road River having been decided by the late James Dickinson the engineer, His Excellency W. W. Cairns, the Lieut.-Governor, caused an Act to be passed on May 1, 1869, authorizing the water to be conveyed from the said river to this town.

"These works were commenced in January 1870, and after much difficulty occasioned by the death of Mr. Dickinson the engineer, in Nov. 1872, they were completed on the 12th inst.

"The length of piping from the weir to the reservoir is 5½ miles, and from this throughout the town 5½ miles more, in all about 11 miles. The capacity of the reservoir is 516,000 gallons. The amount estimated by the late engineer for completing these works was 15,387*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*, the actual cost to date has been 14,389*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, and a further sum of about 1,750*l.* will be required, making the total cost about 16,139*l.*

"The contractors employed on these works were Messrs. James Quelch, George Hutchinson, and John Branch.

"The Commissioners, who have gratuitously supervised, and who have given much time and personal labour to carry out the provisions of the law, consist of Hon. James Berridge, Mr. G. Evelyn, Mr. J. Gordon, Mr. S. Abbott, and Mr. A. J. Cock. And I feel sure that I only give expression not only to theirs but to the universal wish when I say that I sincerely hope that this work, so happily accomplished, will be only one of the many measures for the comfort and benefit of the people which your Excellency shall be permitted to bring to a successful issue during your administration of the Government of the Leeward Islands."

His Excellency having bowed in reply, Archdeacon Gibbs offered up the following appropriate prayer:—

"Almighty and most merciful God from whom all good things do come—who openest thine hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing—We would specially acknowledge this day the bountiful provision which Thou hast made for us Thy creatures in crowning with success the works which have been undertaken for supplying the inhabitants of this town with wholesome water.

"We thank Thee for putting it into the hearts of our Government to make so necessary a provision.

"Grant, we beseech Thee, that under Thy good providence, it may tend to preserve the health—to promote the comfort—and to cleanse and secure the dwellings of our people.

"And while partaking of these bounties from the nether springs of Thy providence, may we be led to seek after the upper springs of

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Thy Grace—of which if a man drink he shall never thirst again—that so our bodies being refreshed by Thy temporal mercies, and our souls blessed by the dew of Thy Heavenly love, we may set forth Thy praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to Thy service—by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days—and by leading a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end—Amen."

The Band then played the glorious "Old Hundred" with excellent effect, and the Governor entering the Valve House, turned the ornamental wheel prepared for the occasion, and on emerging proclaimed the Basseterre Waterworks to be duly opened, when the Horse Artillery fired a salute of seventeen guns in good time.

His Excellency then drove to the Parade Ground where the Horse Artillery and the Windward and Leeward Troops of cavalry were reviewed, and after marching past in slow time, and in file, they were formed in line and advanced to the saluting flag when the Governor addressed Lieut.-Colonel Berridge, expressing himself much pleased with what he had witnessed of the efficiency of the militia force, that it would always afford him pleasure to encourage so laudable and praiseworthy a movement, and that he felt sure the officers and men would aim at the highest efficieney.

Three hearty cheers were then given for the Governor, the whole force trotted past, and the assemblage broke up following the Governor from the ground, everyone seemingly delighted with the whole arrangements and the break in the usual monotony of our everyday life.

Appendix No. 2.

EDUCATION.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT for Quarter ending December 31st 1873, and on the PUBLIC EXAMINATION of CHILDREN, and the ANNUAL general EXAMINATION of TEACHERS, laid before His Honour the PRESIDENT February 27th, 1874.

Present the following Council of Advice :—

The Hon. and Ven. the ARCHDEACON; Rev. T. M. CHAMBERS; Rev. S. L. THAELER; H. W. MARSHAL, Esquire.

SIR,

During the last quarter of the year 1873, a severe attack of an ailment at the time epidemic in the Island prevented the possibility of my visiting more than a few of the Schools, in and near town, under my Supervision; and furthermore rendered the visits paid of a nature more cursory even than the very limited time at my disposal generally makes obligatory.

From such Inspection as I was able to give, prospects for the coming Christmas Examination of Children looked very unfavourable; not from falling off in numbers in the Schools generally, for the Quarterly Returns show a better attendance than those for the corresponding Quarter of 1872, and will bear fair comparison with those for the same period for an average of several years past; the

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falling off was in the attainments of those yielding the attendance, their numbers being, much more than usually, composed of small and as yet untrained children; a clear illustration of the aspect was afforded by Bethesda School, which, year after year, has been accustomed to send up Candidates to compete successfully at the Public Examination, but in which a glance of the eye was almost sufficient to assure me, without a word from the Teacher, that there was no material advantageously available on the present occasion, although the School was maintaining its high average of numbers. For the state of things just described I believe the condition of the Island may alone serve as adequate reason, without further research.

Turning to the Public Examination of Children, and matters directly connected therewith, as the lists of Candidates came in to me, I saw that matters were not to be so bad as I had apprehended; even though some large out-of-town Schools, which usually sent Children, were unrepresented, and others, which ought never to fail to send, simply repeated their annual non-appearance; and the actual number of candidates, whose names were given in, and the resulting number, of those who presented themselves, were alike respectable. As, however, might have been anticipated, the average work in the Examination on the part of the whole number examined was by no means up to the Standard of previous years; though the performances of those who won, or, I would rather say, earned Prizes, were excellent in themselves, and nowise inferior to those of other years. For Special mention are to be given the following:—The gainer of the 1st Prize in Reading and Spelling, a boy to all appearance younger than most of his competitors, whose work was without flaw. In the Boys' Arithmetic the 1st Prize was taken by a very little fellow, whose comprehension showed to equal advantage with his routine work, and who I think, stands unsurpassed by any of our previous Prize Winners in this subject.

The Girls' Arithmetic was, I am sorry to have to say, *as usual a very lame affair*, and the one possible claimant for a Prize was only entitled to receive one of reduced value. In Dictation there were, to take the foremost places, two boys whose work was free from mistake of any kind; and the other Prizes were well merited.

Geography, History, and Scripture may be remarked upon in common for the admirable work done by those who were successful; very fair answers were given by others also in Geography, in which, by the way, the same little fellow already mentioned under Arithmetic took 3rd Prize—in the other two subjects the successful only were entitled to much credit. In Sewing and Darning the Children were smaller than hitherto, as well as fewer, and in the former the work, good in itself, not up to previous excellence.

The Teacher's Examination needs but few, if any, remarks. Under the impression that I had on the whole set rather easier papers than usual, I was a trifle disappointed to find the totals of marks come out lower than of late. Further than this I will only add, that the object for which Examination is held will fairly affect the proportion of Marks to be given for imperfect answers. From those who would teach extreme accuracy may justly be demanded, in all subjects of their teaching; while for many of the ordinary employments of life a less accurate knowledge, in matters not directly bearing upon

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the employment itself, is practically sufficient, and may find more lenient treatment in an Examination.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY W. MARSHAL,
H.M. Inspector of Schools.

ABSTRACT of SCHOOL RETURNS for Quarter Ending December 31st, 1873.

Church of England.

No.	Name of School.	No. on Books	Average.	Equal by Law.	Fees.	Exempt.	Class.	Remarks.
					£ c.			
1	St. George's	114	90	66¼	16 12	23	III.	
2	Salt Ponds	21	16	16	0 00	all	I.	
3	St. Peter's	95	56	53	13 36	0	II.	
4	St. Mary's	105	67	58½	13 80	10	II.	
5	Christ Church	66	42	42	7 97	6	I.	
6	St. John's	72	42	42	7 04	12	I.	Rain disallowed.
7	Dieppe Bay	60	41	41	7 50	9	I.	Do.
8	St. Paul's	78	41	41	7 40	9	I.	Do.
9	St. Ann's	80	40	40	7 68	9	I.	
10	St. Thomas'	75	50	50	8 36	12	II.	
11	Old Road	119	64	57	11 60	15	II.	
12	Trinity	110	62	56	12 60	12	II.	Insufficient reasons in exemptions.
		995	611	562¾	112 43	117		

Wesleyan.

1	Basseterre Juvenile	134	77	62¾	16 50	2	III.	
2	Do. Infant	76	40	40	5 94	13	I.	
3	Cayon	54	42	42	9 84	3	I.	
4	Tabernacle	65	43	43	6 24	14	I.	
5	Dieppe Bay	114	55	52½	7 70	21	II.	
6	St. Paul's	85	59	54½	12 50	10	II.	Rain disallowed.
7	Sandy Point	112	45	45	10 68	5	I.	
8	Halfway Tree	75	40	40	6 72	12	I.	Average corrected
9	Old Road	121	54	52	9 48	19	II.	Do.
10	Palmetto Point	64	40	40	7 20	8	I.	
		900	495	471¾	92 80	107		

Moravian.

1	Basseterre Juvenile	84	54	52	15 74	4	II.	
2	Do. Infant	103	63	56½	10 12	22	II.	
3	Irish Town do	156	92	66¾	16 52	17	III.	
4	Bethesda	114	92	66¾	21 61	8	III.	
5	Estridge	90	56	53	13 03	6	II.	
6	Bethel	107	67	58½	17 13	6	II.	
		654	424	353½	94 15	65		
		2,549	1,530	1,338	299 38	289		

Class I. includes schools whose average is below 50.
Class II. includes schools whose average is below 75.
Class III. includes schools whose average is below 100.
Class IV. includes schools whose average is not below 100.

There are 57 working days in the first quarter of 1874.

HENRY W. MARSHAL, M.A.,
H.M. Inspector of Schools.

CHILDREN from the INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS who have GAINED PRIZES at the PUBLIC EXAMINATION in the COURT-HOUSE, BASSETERRE, December 26th and 27th, 1873.

Reading and Spelling.

Prize.	Value $.		School.
1st.	3	Edward French -	Old Road Wesleyan.
2nd.	2	John Blois - - -	Bethel Moravian.
2nd.	2	Robert Woolward -	Basseterre Wesleyan.
4th.	1	Miriam Burgundy -	St. George's.

Writing—Boys.

1st.	3	Joseph H. S. Boon -	Palmetto Point Wesleyan.
2nd.	2	William Taylor -	Basseterre Moravian.
3rd.	1	Joseph Wilkinson -	Christ Church.

Writing—Girls.

1st.	2	Henriette Steele -	St. Mary's.
2nd.	1	Margaret Giff - -	Do.
3rd.	1	Ann Elizabeth Pitt -	Basseterre Moravian.

Arithmetic—Boys.

1st.	3	Alvan Deebles -	St. George's.
2nd.	2	George Adams - -	Basseterre Moravian.
3rd.	1	John Blois - -	Bethel do.
3rd.	1	Robert Woolward -	Basseterre Wesleyan.

Arithmetic—Girls.

2nd.	2	Ann Elizabeth Pitt -	Basseterre Moravian.

Dictation.

1st.	3	Joseph G. Archibald	Basseterre Moravian.
1st.	3	Alfred Hardtman -	St. George's.
3rd.	2	Henriette Steele -	St Mary's.
4th.	1	Samuel Adams -	Basseterre Moravian.

Geography.

1st.	3	George Adams -	Basseterre Moravian.
2nd.	2	Joseph G. Archibald	Do. do.
3rd.	1	Alvan Deebles -	St. George's.

History.

1st.	3	George Adams -	Basseterre Moravian.
2nd.	2	John Samuel Phillip	Do. do.
3rd.	1	John Blois - -	Bethel do.

Scripture.

1st.	3	Samuel Adams -	Basseterre Moravian.
2nd.	2	Joseph G. Archibald	Do. do.
3rd.	1	John Blois - -	Bethel do.

Sewing.

1st.	3	Ann Elizabeth Pitt -	Basseterre Moravian.
2nd.	2	Therilda Duport -	Do. Wesleyan.

Darning.

Prize.	Value $.		School.
1st.	3	Henrietta Abbott -	Basseterre Moravian.

The sewing and darning judged by a committee of ladies.

HENRY W. MARSHAL,
H.M. Inspector of Schools.

RESULT of TEACHERS' EXAMINATION, held January 17 and 24th, 1874.

Name.	School.	Arithmetic.	Scripture.	History.	Geography.	Grammar.	Miscellaneous.	Dictation.	Writing.	Total.
	Full Marks - -	120	72	72	90	90	72	60	24	600
Class I. entitled to Prize-money at the rate of 20*l.* per annum for the year 1874.										
Jarvis, A. M. -	St. George's - -	94	41	35	46	52	43	50	18	379
Priddie, R. J. -	St. Mary's - - -	86	36	42	49	54	42	46	23	373
Cleghorn, T. -	Basseterre Wesleyan	71	40	47	55	58	20	48	23	362
Huthersal, E. -	St. Paul's Church -	94	28	28	37	52	37	60	26	356
Francis, J. F. -	Basseterre Moravian	72	33	33	39	54	41	46	20	338
Class II. entitled to Prize-money at the rate of 10*l* per annum for the year 1874.										
Marshall, R. J. -	Christ Church -	67	27	19	32	66	31	55	23	322
Harney, J. J. -	Bethel - - -	76	30	19	52	55	13	51	24	320
Francis, J. C. -	Dieppe Bay Church	56	37	25	38	52	27	52	22	309
Sampson, M. G.	Old Road Wesleyan	48	35	32	44	54	26	49	21	309
Daniell, C. H. -	St. Paul's do.	39	32	37	45	59	22	47	22	303
Entitled to Certificate only, not having reached 300 marks.										
Peters, C. M. -	Old Road Church -	82	29	27	36	36	21	44	22	297
Thomas Jonathan	Estridge - - -	52	33	23	43	48	32	41	18	290
Delvin, J. W. -	St. Peter's - -	46	25	17	39	59	23	49	24	282
Edwards, Jeremiah	Sandy Pt. Wesleyan	53	32	33	36	42	9	42	12	259
Frederick Zadok	St. Thomas' - -	64	24	29	37	32	9	43	14	251
Edmead, Jedidiah	St. John's - - -	70	8	20	21	44	4	54	18	239
Laforey, C. A. -	Cayon Wesleyan -	49	19	4	29	47	6	52	18	224

The Report above-given, though formally applying only to the closing quarter of 1873, and giving in addition some particulars concerning the Public Examination of children, and of the General Examination of Teachers, contains, practically, a fair view of the general condition of our Schools at a period very far from prosperous, the staple cross of the Island having for three successive years fallen lamentably below average.

The average for the whole year 1873 gives for number of children borne on the School Registers 2805; for attendance, 1664; the closing quarter of each year usually showing some diminution in members.

(Signed) HENRY W. MARSHAL, M.A.,
H.M. Inspector of Schools.

GIBRALTAR.

No 8. No. 8.

Major-General SOMERSET, C.B., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Gibraltar, July 29, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the Blue Book of Gibraltar for the year 1873, the accuracy of which has been duly certified by the Colonial Secretary, with the following observations on its contents:—

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue from all sources collected in 1873 amounted to 48,456*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, including the repayment by the Spanish Government of the sum of 5,673*l.* 9*s.* advanced from the colonial revenue in 1870 for the payment of the ransom of the Messrs. Bonell of Gibraltar, showing a real increase of 4,579*l.* 3*s.* over the revenue of the previous year. The total expenditure of the year was 46,491*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*, being 221*l.* 10*s.* under the expenditure of 1872, and thus leaving on the 31st December, 1873, a total surplus revenue amounting to 46,878*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*, as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Invested in colonial securities - -	42,003	15	0
In colonial chests - - - - -	4,874	14	8

Legislation.

The following Ordinances and Proclamations were promulgated during the year:—

1. A Proclamation putting in force Her Majesty's Order in Council, dated 24th March, 1873, for carrying into effect the Treaty concluded between Her Majesty and the King of Italy for the mutual extradition of criminals.

2. An Ordinance to regulate the salaries of officers administering the Government of Gibraltar, and for other purposes.

3. Proclamation putting in force Her Majesty's Order in Council, dated 20th June, 1873, for carrying into effect the Treaty concluded between Her Majesty and the King of Denmark for the mutual extradition of criminals.

4. Proclamation putting in force Her Majesty's Order in Council, dated 30th September, 1873, for carrying into effect a Treaty between Her Majesty and the King of Sweeden and Norway, for the mutual extradition of criminals.

5. Proclamation putting in force from the 1st January, 1874, Her Majesty's Order in Council, dated 30th August, 1873, entitled "The "Alien's Order in Council, Gibraltar, 1873."

6. Proclamation putting in force, in accordance with the provisions of the 26, 27 Vict., c. 76, Her Majesty's Letters Patent under the Great Seal revoking the Letters Patent of the 21st August, 1842,

GIBRALTAR.

constituting and appointing Dr. Tomlinson to be the Bishop of the See of Gibraltar; and also revoking the Letters Patent of the 8th April, 1868, appointing the Honourable Dr. Harris to be Bishop of Gibraltar.

Public Works.

The principal public works and improvements undertaken during the year were the dredging of the harbour, the reconstruction of the Gibraltar Public School (Crown property, No. 757), and the extension and improvement of the Public Cemetery north front, at an aggregate cost of 2,342*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*

Education.

The Government subsidy in aid of the charity schools, nine in number, amounted to 766*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, showing an increase, as compared with 1872, of 502*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* It having been decided that, in assimilation to the practice in England, an amount equal to the voluntary local contributions shall in future be issued from the colonial revenue to all charity schools without distinction of denomination, provided that the sum does not exceed 6*s.* per head of the children in average attendance. The number of children educated in the different charity schools during the year was 1662.

Population.

The last census was taken in 1871, and the civil population was estimated at 18,695 souls, of whom 2,241 were aliens residing in the garrison on temporary permits. The military population was 6,448, making the total gross population in 1873, 25,143. The rate of mortality was as follows:—

Civil population	- - -	25·21 per mile.
Military „	- - - -	13·3 „

Shipping.

The return for the year 1873 exhibits a continued increase in the number of vessels entered in the port. The total number of vessels was 5,394, of which 2,275 were propelled by steam, showing an increase of 340 vessels (48 steamers), 133,739 tons, and 5,972 crews, as compared with the return of 1872.

General Remarks.

The public health during the past year has been good, and the Colony free from any epidemic. Commerce has been much favoured by incidental circumstances, and has prospered.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Carnarvon, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) EDWARD SOMERSET,
Maj.-Gen. and Acting Governor.

MALTA.

No. 9.

No. 9.

Governor Sir C. T. VAN STRAUBENZEE, K.C.B., to
The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Palace, Valletta, June 23, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1873, to which I append, for the information of your Lordship, a few remarks by Sir Victor Houlton, the Chief Secretary to this Government.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. T. VAN STRAUBENZEE,
Governor.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Chief Secretary's Office, Valletta,
SIR, June 23, 1874.

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency the Annual Blue Book for the year 1873, with remarks for your Excellency's information.

The delay that has occurred in its transmission has been caused by the fact of Her Majesty's Government having come to no decision with reference to the Coast Guard, which has prevented my bringing before the Council for their approval the expenses incurred for this service, since the reduction of the Royal Malta Fencible Artillery Regiment, and delayed the framing of the Annual Returns of Revenue and Expenditure, and the Supplementary Ordinance of Appropriation for 1873.

Although the decision above quoted has not, up to present date, been communicated to this Government, I think that it would be, for obvious reasons, inexpedient to delay any longer the transmission of the Blue Book; and I have appended, in publishing the Returns in the Government Gazette, an explanatory note under the head of Coast Guard expenses, which note will also be inserted in the Blue Book.

I have, &c.,
Sir C. T. Van Straubenzee, K.C.B., (Signed) VICTOR HOULTON,
&c. &c. &c. Chief Secretary to Government.

Legislation.

The following Ordinances passed during 1873:—

No. 1. To amend and consolidate certain laws relative to persons.

No. 2. To amend the laws relative to the admission of any persons to act in the capacity of master, mate, or engineer on board merchant ships, and to make some other provisions.

No. 3. To make certain provisions in reference to prisoners that may be found on board foreign merchant ships.

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No. 4. To grant certain rights to parties who undertake certain works.

No. 5. To amend Ordinance No. II. of 1869. "To authorize the "Head of the Government to prohibit the burial of corpses in certain "places, and to make other provisions relative to such prohibition."

No. 6. For applying a sum not exceeding 18,308*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* to the service of the year 1872.

No. 7. For applying a sum not exceeding 106,610*l.* to the service of the year 1874.

Pensions.

The new pensions granted to the disbanded men of the Royal Malta Fencible Artillery, on reduction of that corps in March 1873, gave rise to an excess of 380*l.* 13*s.* on the pension list. The amount claimable by pensioners on 31st December, 1873, was 13,710*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, which, when compared with that of the previous year (13,148*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*), gives an increase of 562*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* The new pensions granted during the year 1873 amounted to 2,089*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*

Civil Establishments.

The office of one of Her Majesty's judges became vacant by the death of Dr. I. Schembri, and Dr. Filippo Pullicino has been appointed in his stead. Another vacancy of a responsible nature took place in consequence of the death of Dr. Francesco Grungo, magistrate of the Court of Judicial Police for the Island of Malta, which was filled up by the appointment of Dr. Giovanni Camilleri. Dr. Paolo Cremona and Dr. Vincenzo Paolo Micallef have been appointed magistrates of the Court of Gozo, the former in the room of Dr. Benedetto Bardon, who retired from the service, and the latter vice Dr. Giovanni Carnana, deceased.

Finance.

The average of the gross revenues of the five years immediately preceding 1873 was 164,712*l.*

The gross revenue of 1873 was 162,283*l.* 2*s.* 11¼*d.*, but in order to form a fair comparison between the revenue of 1873 and former years, the following exceptional items should be excluded:—

	£
Proceeds of sale of dividends erroneously invested in 1868 - - - - - - - -	1,438
Contributions from Imperial Government in aid of water supply in 1871 - - - - -	8,000
Compensation paid by the Imperial Government in arrear, in 1872, towards the settlement of local claims in regard to the rental of the French creek property from 1866 - - - -	2,427
	£11,865

reducing the revenue of 1872 to 170,870*l.*, and the quinquennial average to 162,339*l.*

The revenue of 1873 would thus be 8,587*l.* less than the revenue of 1872, and 56*l.* less than the quinquennial average.

The principal differences as compared with 1872 are:—

	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£
Import dues and store rent	—	9,015
Quarantine dues	—	981
Sales of land property*	1,085	
Rents of property administered by the Governor	—	1,163
Licences	802	
Interest	268	

The falling off in import dues and store rent appears to be attributable partly to exceptional causes, such as the prolonged absence of Her Majesty's fleet, and partly to a general depression in the industrial and commercial transactions of the Island.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The expenditure of 1873 was	168,061	13	8
The revenue of 1873	160,728	18	8¼
Deficiency of revenue	£7,332	14	11¼

Public Works.

The particular works of magnitude which were either commenced in 1873, or continued from former years, are:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Rooms for violent patients, Lunatic Asylum	1,084	15	8
St. John's Church ceiling, &c.	958	6	5
"Addolorata Cemetery"	1,068	5	3
Lazaretto	935	6	11
Aisle for juvenile offenders, Corradino	220	9	0
Oil vats	130	0	5
Damage caused by storms	314	19	11
Verandah at the Marina	245	14	5
	£4,957	18	0

The construction of tanks in Casal Zabbar was undertaken in 1873, and provision has been made in the general estimate for 1874, to extend to other villages (six in number) the utility of these rainfall reservoirs.

Military Expenditure.

The total amount expended under this head was 280,942*l.* 13*s.*, 5,000*l.* of which were paid by the Malta Government towards the military service of these Islands.

* But this item of revenue is invested.

Education.

A new primary school at Sannat, in Gozo, was opened on 1st December, 1873. The number of the scholars attending this school is 100, 50 of each sex.

An increase of 124*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*, in the expenditure of 1873 over that of 1872 was caused by the employment of the clinical assistant in the Central Hospital, and by other expenses consequent on the opening of the above school. The average number of scholars in 1873 amounted to 8,031, and the expenditure under this head to 9,450*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*

Savings' Banks.

The deposits in the savings' banks gave the following results on 31st December, 1873, viz., an increase in Malta of 6,149*l.* 15*s.* 5¾*d.* over the deposits of 1872, and a decrease in Gozo of 365*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*

The number of Malta depositors was - - -	2,767
Ditto ditto Gizo ditto - - -	179
Total - -	2,946

Population.

The population of Malta and Gozo amounted to 145,604 on December 31, 1873, showing an increase of 1805, or 1·25 per cent. over the population as given on December 31, 1872, and an increase of 6,458, or 4·64 per cent. over the population of 1863.

The population to the square mile is 1,266$\frac{14}{115}$, exclusive of the Queen's troops.

Births, 4,921; marriages, 838; deaths, 3,116.

Shipping.

The arrivals of vessels during 1873 were much the same as those of 1872, and the steamers continued to give an increase in the number of arrivals over the sailing vessels.

Steamers - - -	2,152	
Sailing vessels - - -	2,058	
Total - -	4,210,	or 1·04 per cent.

The aggregate tonnage of the above vessels was—

On December 31, 1873 - - - -	2,168,875
On December 31, 1872 - - - - -	2,113,576
Giving an increase of - - -	55,299

in 1873, although the arrivals were less by two vessels than those of 1872.

The crews of the above vessels amounted to 89,511 individuals.

Clearances.

Vessels, 4,198; tons, 2,172,973; crews, 89,991.

Charitable Institutions.

The number of persons relieved or maintained in the charitable institutions during the year 1873 amounted to 4,171, at an individual cost of 5*l.* 10*s.* $0\frac{4}{12}d.$ each per annum; and their average daily number at 1,713, at the average rate of 13*l.* 7*s.* $1\frac{11}{12}d.$ (each person daily maintained) per annum.

The average number of persons receiving out-door relief from public funds during the year 1873 amounted to 1,723, at the rate of 2*s.* 10 *d.* each per month.

Criminal Statistics.

The total number of offences against the person, the good order of families, and property, amounted to 5,673, or 1·06 per cent. less than the number reported to the police or the magistrates in 1872, namely, 6,028. These offences gave rise to 8,493 summary convictions, and to 63 committals for trial in Her Majesty's Criminal Court.

Total number of persons brought before the magistrates in 1873	9,750
Ditto ditto in 1872	9,912
Less in 1873	162
Summary convictions in 1873	8,493
Ditto ditto in 1872	8,466
More in 1873	27
Committals for trial in 1873	63
Ditto ditto in 1872	24
More in 1873	39

The total number of persons brought before the magistrates in 1873 is less than that of 1872, and yet the number of the summary convictions and of the committals for trials in 1873 exceeds that of 1872.

Summary convictions—more in 1873	27
Committals for trials—more in 1873	39

General Remarks.

The health of these Islands was good throughout the year. Nothing was done during 1873 either by the Imperial Government or Local to improve the state of the sewerage and drainage, with the exception of adding to the number of sewer ventilators on high levels, as also an experiment made at the suggestion of Rear-Admiral Inglefield at the landing-place of the Marsamuscetto Harbour, to obviate the

MALTA.

nuisance caused by the surface outfalls of the sewers into the harbours, as at present existing, by conducting the sewage by means of an iron pipe into deep water. After a nine months' trial, this experiment was found to have worked very successfully, and although the sewage still remains in the harbours, the greater portion of it settles at a low level in deep water, and the many nuisances arising from the surface outfall have been materially remedied. Want of funds have hitherto prevented the Local Government from carrying out this, as also other further improvements connected with an improved sewage and drainage system; but the question is one which must at an early date be dealt with, inasmuch as the evils from the actual state of the sewage and drainage are making themselves practically felt, and the great augmentation of mortality in the current year and marked increase in the number of cases of diphtheria and other zymotic diseases must be mainly attributed to the defective sanitary condition of Valletta and the Three Cities from this cause.

On the 25th of May the Government sustained a severe loss by the partial destruction of the Theatre Royal by fire. This beautiful building was erected under the administration of Sir John Gaspard Le Marchant in the year 1860, and cost, independently of the value of the site, 41,224*l.*, the moneys being taken from the public revenues. The Theatre of Malta is the only recreation to which the public look, and its existence is most necessary to maintain the position which this Island has so long enjoyed as a residence preferable to others on the shores of the Mediterranean. It attracts also the presence of wealthy strangers, who during the winter months fill the hotels and lodging-houses, and give employment to many of the working classes. A select committee of the Council was appointed to report on the steps that should be taken in connection with the reconstruction of the theatre, and after much discussion they have decided upon recommending its reconstruction,—the Government to advance the necessary funds, and the future Impressario to pay a rental of so much per cent. upon capital expended, who is again to be recouped this outlay by increased prices of admission, and to this recommendation the Government and Council have agreed.

The Island has been perfectly quiet during the past year.

A return of the "Temperature of Air" of this Island has been added to the Blue Book.

(Signed) VICTOR HOULTON.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 10.

Governor BERKELEY to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
23rd June, 1874.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Settlement for the year 1873, and to make the following Report:—

Duties and Taxes.

The specific duties levied under the Customs Ordinance, No. 13, of the 17th of August, 1872, from which the principal amount of revenue is raised are:—

Ale and beer	6*d.* per gal. and 1*s.* per doz.
Cigars	2*s.* per lb.
Gunpowder	2*s.* per barrel.
Tobacco, unmanufactured	4*d.* per lb.
Spirits	2*s.* per gallon.
Wine, except claret	1*s.* 6*d.* per gallon.
Claret	6*d.* per gallon.

Also under provision of an Ordinance, passed on the 14th of August, 1872:—

Tonnage	6*d.* per ton.
Light dues	3*d.* ,,

Harbour dues as per scale in Blue Book return.

The following taxes are also leviable:—

On all sales by public auction	4*l.* per centum.
Upon all ships and lands sold, about the value of 50*l.*	2*l.* ,,
Powder, to the value of 50*l.*	1*l.* ,,
Cattle impounded	1*s.* 6*d.* per head.
Pilot licences	2*l.* each.
Auctioneers' licences	25*l.* each.
Retail spirit licences in Freetown	50*l.* per annum.
Ditto for six months	30*l.*
Retail spirit licences in Freetown for three months	20*l.*
Ditto out of Freetown per annum	20*l.*
Ditto for six months	15*l.*
Ditto for three months	10*l.*
Dog licence	1*s.* each.
Marriage licence	2*l.* 2*s.* each.
Boat licence per annum	10*s.* each.
Licence per billiard table	5*l.* 5*s.* per annum.
Sale of burial lots, new burial ground	1*l.* 10*s.* and 10*s.* 6*d.* each lot, according to size.

SIERRA LEONE.

With the exception of spirit licences, a very small amount, comparatively, is realized from any of these imposts.

It will be seen on examination of the return in the Blue Book, the nature of the various remissions of duties and taxes effected by the provisions of Ordinances Nos. 10, 12, 13, 14, and 16, all passed in the month of August, 1872.

To compensate for the loss of revenue from these sources an additional duty of 6*d.* per gallon was imposed on spirits and wines, of 2½*d.* per pound on unmanufactured tobacco, an increased rate on cigars, and on gunpowder an addition of 1*s.* 3*d.* per barrel.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The entire revenue of the Settlement for the year 1873 is returned at 92,103*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, of which amount 43,983*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* was contributed by the Customs.

Under this particular head, however, the items, imports and bonds do not specify the amounts realized under the different heads of rateable articles. But as I understand that the return has been for many years rendered in this form, I do not like to delay further the transmission of the Blue Book by causing it to be amended.

From the gross amount of 92,103*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, the following items must be deducted as not belonging to revenue proper :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Re-imbursements in aid	3,965	16	3
Sale of Government property	445	8	2
Miscellaneous receipts	572	18	2
Public Works Loan Ordinance	7,539	0	4
Hospital stoppages (of this amount 1,874*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* is contributed by the Imperial Government)	2,299	7	0
Advances repaid	18,119	15	4
Parliamentary grant, Governor's salary	1,379	2	9
Repayment of loan	3,600	0	0
Colonial steamer grant from Imperial Government erroneously entered as	5,000	0	0
Deposits	199	10	7
Total	£43,120	18	7

Expenditure.

The expenditure of the Settlement is returned at 103,628*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, from which the following items may fairly be deducted as not coming under the head of the regular expenditure of the Settlement :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Amount lent to Lagos Government	3,000	0	0
Ditto to Cape Coast Castle	600	0	0
Colonial steamer	4,697	0	0
Advances made	19,431	0	0
Public works loan	12,080	0	0
Total	£39,808	0	0

Public Debt.

1,379*l.* is returned under this head, being the amount of deposits lodged in the public chest from time to time, and for the repayment of which the Government is responsible, but without interest. 1,500*l.* is also set down as due to the Sherbro' steamer, being amount drawn from Imperial funds and lodged in the Treasury to the credit of that vessel; but the real debt of the Colony is 50,000*l.*, the amount of debentures issued under the provisions of an Ordinance passed on the 17th of March, 1871, of which 2,000*l.* has been remitted during the year, to meet the interest and sinking fund.

Military Expenditure.

The total number of troops in the Settlement on the 31st of December was 43, being considerably below the average strength. Every available man had been sent to the Gold Coast to assist in the operations going on in that Settlement.

Works and Buildings.

Under this head the entire amount expended is for repairs. A sum of 1,295*l.* 10*s.* 0½*d.* has been laid out upon roads, streets, and bridges.

Legislature.

But five Ordinances were passed during the year, viz.: — An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Settlement for the year 1874. An Ordinance, to appoint Courts to inquire into cases of wreck. An Ordinance, vesting certain Wesleyan Methodists' Chapel lands in the Rev. B. Tregaskis. An Ordinance for the exemption from port dues of transport ships; and an Ordinance for the naturalization of aliens.

Executive and Legislative Councils.

No permanent alteration or addition has been made in either of these bodies, but there have been various changes from time to time in the case of ex-officio members during the year. Mr. Charles Heddle, Member of the Legislative Council, was absent the entire year.

Civil Establishment.

Mr. Hennessy, the Administrator-in-Chief, left the Settlement on the 21st of February, 1873, having been succeeded by Governor Keate. Colonel Harley became Administrator-in-Chief on Governor Keate's death, which took place at Cape Coast on the 17th of March, and I was appointed Governor on the 25th of July, 1873, and assumed the Government on the 29th of August. Mr. Blyden, Agent for the Interior, resigned on the 13th of November, and no fresh appointment has been made. The Director of Public Instruction, Mr. Easton, died on the 12th of May, and no successor has been appointed.

SIERRA LEONE.

Captain Keane, Deputy Collector at Sherbro', died at that station on the 25th of August, and Mr. Lord, Manager of the Second Eastern District, died on the 23rd of June. Mr. Chalmers was appointed Queen's Advocate vice Mr. Alston, deceased. The Colonial Chaplaincy remained vacant during the year. Mr. Oakes succeeded Mr. Price as Engineer to the Harbour Works, the latter officer having been appointed to Hong Kong.

Pensions.

The amount paid under this head in 1873 was 2,154*l.* 14*s.*, the highest pension, at the rate of 1,000*l.* per annum being that granted to the late Chief Justice, Mr. Carr. During the year previous the amount of 403*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* lapsed in consequence of death.

Population.

The total resident population in 1871, according to the last census taken, was 37,089, of which 18,531 were males and 18,558 females. The total white population amounted to 107, of which 76 were males and 31 females. There were also 1,847 transients not included in the regular returns.

Ecclesiastical Return.

There are 16 places of worship in connection with the Established Church in the Settlement, capable of accommodating 9,690 persons, with an average attendance of 6,412. Of these St. George's Cathedral is the only one towards the exclusive maintenance of which the Colony contributes, the rest of the churches being dependent upon the Church Missionary Society, aided by voluntary subscriptions, supplemented by a grant from the public of 500*l.* per annum towards the support of the native pastorate. The Roman Catholics have one chapel, with an average attendance of 250. Of the dissenting bodies, Lady Huntingdon's connection, the Baptists, the United Methodist, Free Churches, the Wesleyan Methodists, and the Church of God are all represented. Of these the Wesleyans have 19 places of worship, with an average attendance of 9,260, the United Methodists 9 places of worship, with an attendance of 3,150, the Lady Huntingdon Connection 4 places of worship, with an attendance of 590, the Church of God 1 chapel, with an attendance of 220, and the Baptists 1 chapel, with an attendance of 100.

Education.

The number of schools in connection with the Established Church are, week-days and Sundays 27, with an attendance, as returned, of 4,237 scholars. Of these one only, the model school, is supported solely by Government, the other schools receiving amounts in aid from the public funds, on the fulfilment of certain necessary conditions.

The attendance at the Model School is returned at 450; the expenses, 809*l.* 9*s.* This school is under the immediate supervision of the Director of Public Instruction, who also exercises certain powers over all schools receiving a contribution from the Public Grant, and which are subjected to a half-yearly inspection and examination. The duties of this very important office have, however, been in abeyance since the death of the late director, Mr. Easton, which occurred on the 12th of May, as no suitable person can be found in England to accept the appointment. In the meantime the school is conducted by the Head Master and assistants. The Wesleyan and other dissenting bodies return 64 schools, with an attendance of 7,285. The Roman Catholics, 2 schools, with an attendance of 75. In addition to the schools contained in these returns there is a college at Fomah Bay, and a female institution, both in connection with the Church Missionary Society. The college, up to a recent period, has been devoted exclusively to the training and education of natives for the Ministry, but it is in contemplation to extend the system of education pursued there to more general subjects.

Imports and Exports

The total value of the imports during the year was 490,993*l.*, of which 394,671*l.* were received from Great Britain; 50,403*l.* from France; 5,752*l.* from Germany; 7,104*l.* from the Windward Coast; and 28,908*l.* from the United States. The value of the exports is returned at 465,113*l.*, towards which amount the Sherbro' District contributes 70,934*l.* Properly speaking the quantities and values of the exports from the district, excluding articles that should not be classed as such, are—

	Value.
	£
Benni-seed, 26 tons	366
Palm oil, 70,929 gallons	6,314
Palm kernels, 6,515 tons	40,225
Total	£46,905

In the same way the quantity and value of the articles exported from other parts of the Settlement can only be reckoned as follows:—

	Value.
	£
Arrowroot, 3,318 lbs.	61
Beeswax, 35,721 lbs.	2,084
Benni-seed, 34,161 bushels	13,763
Cam-wood, 1,420 lbs.	12
Coffee, 1,223 lbs.	51
Cola-nuts, 966 packgs.	9,748
Indian corn, 2 packgs.	7
Cotton, raw, 3,994 packgs.	26

	Value.
	£
Green fruit, 70 packgs.	45
Preserved ditto, 9 packgs.	13
Ginger, 619 tons	20,655
Gold-dust, 247 oz.	965
Ground nuts, 640,799 bushels	63,538
Gum, copal, 984,455 lbs.	18,384
Hides, 914,748 lbs.	41,121
India-rubber, 49,750 lbs.	3,440
Ivory, 5,462 lbs.	1,326
Mats, 1,070 lbs.	52
Palm oil, 444,666 gallons	41,416
Ox horns, 8,800	36
Oxen, 986	4,017
Palm kernels, 206,354 bushels	43,400
Pepper, Cayenne, 57 packgs.	111
Rice, native, 6,455 bushels	1,449
Starch, 20 packgs.	11
Yams, 505 dozen	51
Total	£265,782

The real value, therefore, of the exports for the year is, from

	£
British Sherbro'	46,905
And from other parts of the Settlement	265,782
Total	£312,687

Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the police during the year 1873 was 1,457; being 58 less than the previous year, and 18 less than in 1871. 85 of these offences were committed for trial before the Supreme Court, the remainder being summarily dealt with.

The returns show some increase in the number of cases (105) in the Supreme Court in comparison with the years 1871 and 1872, but a decrease since the year 1870; the number in these three years respectively having been 73, 56, and 133.

Of these 105 cases, however, there were the considerable number of 28 acquittals.

As to convictions for particular crimes it may be observed that there is an increase in offences against the person over the returns for 1872 and 1871, but still falling short of the number for 1870; the numbers for these years having been 4, 2, and 13 respectively. In larceny there is a decrease in comparison with 1872 and 1870, but more than double the number in 1871; the numbers for 1873, 1872, 1871, and 1870 respectively being 38, 57, 15, 48. There is an

increase in the class of other offences, as compared with all the years of comparison.

Although there thus appears to have been some slight increase of crime over the years 1872 and 1871, the returns are not, on the whole, to be considered unfavourable, the returns for the two latter years having been exceptionally small.

General Remarks.

The year 1873 will ever be memorable in the annals of the West Coast of Africa in consequence of the invasion by the Ashanti forces of certain portions of the Protectorate at the Gold Coast, an event into the particulars of which I feel it would be unnecessary for me to enter. At Lagos, the principal medium of communication with the interior, which had been closed for eighteen months, was opened about the middle of the year, and a large and steadily increasing trade has since been carried on. The decadence in the prospects of the Settlement at the Gambia, which has recently become apparent, showed further development during the year. In this Settlement the changes made in its fiscal arrangements during the previous year resulted in a loss to the revenue, derived from the Customs, of 4,759*l.*, as will appear from an examination of the comparative statement of revenue. A committee, appointed to report upon the sanitary condition of the town, made various suggestions for remedying existing defects, which have been submitted to an eminent engineer in England, whose Report is now under consideration by the Local Government. Though several deaths, among them that of Mr. Keate, the Governor-in-Chief, occurred during the year from fever, no epidemic disease, except small-pox, prevailed.

A large demand was made upon the resources of the Settlement for supplies of all descriptions for the use of the Gold Coast expedition, hence the price of labour and provisions increased for the time. The trade of the Sherbro' district was much interfered with in consequence of petty quarrels among the tribes bordering on the Settlement. With this exception the relations of the Government with the natives were on the whole satisfactory.

In view of the proposed changes about to be introduced in the form of Government of the West African Settlements, it is more than probable that this is the last Report of the kind that will be made by a Governor-in-Chief.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Carnarvon, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor-in-Chief.

LAGOS.

LAGOS.

No. 11.

No. 11.

Administrator STRAHAN to The GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF.

Government House,
May 12, 1874.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book of the Settlement of Lagos for the year 1873, together with a letter from the Acting Colonial Secretary in explanation of the delay which has taken place in its transmission.

As I only assumed the administration of this Government towards the end of 1873, my Report on the Settlement for that year must be confined in a great measure to a summary of the returns furnished for the Blue Book.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEO. C. STRAHAN,
Administrator.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
West African Settlements.

The ACTING COLLECTOR and COLONIAL SECRETARY to The ADMINISTRATOR.

Secretary's Office, Lagos,
May 5, 1874.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency two copies of the Blue Book of this Settlement for the year 1873, and regret that in consequence of the constant illness of the public officers whose duty it was to compile and copy the returns, and the difficulty of obtaining the necessary information from previous defective returns, I have been unable to complete the Blue Book at an earlier date.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN SHAW,
Acting Collector and Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency Captain G. C. Strahan, R.A.,
Administrator.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

1. The principal changes which have taken place under this head consist:—

(1) In the removal of certain restrictions and extra dues which were imposed upon vessels calling at Godomey, Kotenoo, or the adjacent ports previous to their arrival in Lagos.

(2) In the reduction of the duty on all tobacco and spirits imported into the Settlement and exported by lagoon to Porto Novo or beyond seas from 2*d.* to $\frac{1}{4}d.$ per pound on tobacco, and from 6*d.* to $1\frac{1}{4}d.$ per gallon on spirits. This change in the tariff was introduced with the view of diverting to Lagos importations made into the interior

through Porto Novo at Kotenoo, where the charges of importing are comparatively trifling. The present rates are supposed to give a slight advantage in this respect to merchants importing through Lagos over those importing through Porto Novo.

(3) In the reduction of the duty payable for a licence to sell by retail wines, spirits, and malt liquors in the outstations from 25*l.* to 5*l.*

(4) In establishing a certain rate of fees to be received by officers of Customs attending at extra hours. An Ordinance, however, passed during the present year provides that all fees shall be paid into the public Treasury, the officers receiving in lieu thereof a fixed addition to their salaries.

Finance.

2. The revenue collected within the year amounted to 30,468*l.*, and the expenditure, exclusive of payments made for liabilities of former years, to 29,484*l.*

3. The return furnished for the Blue Book, as being a transcript of the receipts and disbursements which have passed through the local Treasury, gives a revenue and expenditure of 52,240*l.* and 52,225*l.* respectively, there being included in the former, along with other special receipts, 15,373*l.*, the amount of bills drawn against a loan of 20,000*l.* from the Imperial Treasury, and in the latter a sum of 22,612*l.*, in payment of liabilities of 1872 and of previous years.

4. It is necessary further to state that the return does not include either under the head of receipts the balance of the loan above referred to, or under the head of expenditure the payments made on account of this Government by the Crown Agents in England, and does not therefore represent the total amount of receipts and disbursements of the year.

5. The receipts of the Settlement from all sources and the disbursements made by the local Treasury and the Crown Agents are as follows :—

Receipts.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue of the Colony* - - -	31,240	11	3
Loan from the Imperial Treasury - -	20,000	0	0
Loan from Sierra Leone Government -	3,025	0	0
Loan from Gold Coast Government - -	2,500	19	0
Loan from Imperial Post Office - -	100	0	0
Refunds, &c. - - - - - - -	125	0	0
Credited to the Colony by the Crown Agents as part of a remittance of 4,848*l.*	2,020	6	1
Amount advanced by Crown Agents on account of the Settlement, and owing on the 31st December - - - -	3,096	1	6
Total - - - -	£62,107	17	10

* This amount, as explained in the Blue Book, includes an item of 772*l.* 10*s.* which is not properly revenue, but is considered as such until remitted.

Disbursements.

			£	s.	d.
Paid through the Local Treasury			32,003	10	9
Remittances to Crown Agents			4,848	0	0
Bills drawn against Imperial Loan			15,373	10	11
Paid by Crown Agents on account of the Colony, viz., for Liabilities of former years	£5,147 7 7				
For services of the year	4,720 9 1		9,867	16	8
			62,092	18	4
Balance in Local Chest on 31st December			14	19	6
Total			£62,107	17	10

If the total amount of remittances made within the year, viz., 4,848*l.*, could have been brought to account at that date, the indebtedness of the Colony to the Crown Agents would be reduced from 3,096*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* to 268*l.*

6. The total expenditure during the year is made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
For the service of the year	29,484	16	8
In payment of liabilities of previous years	27,760	1	8
Taken from receipts to remit to Crown Agents in payment of moneys advanced by them	4,848	0	0
	62,092	18	4
Balance in Local Chest on 31st December	14	19	6
Total	£62,107	17	10

7. The revenue and expenditure of the year 1872 are given as 41,346*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*, and 41,346*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* respectively.

8. Deducting from the revenue of 1872 a sum of 2,008*l.*, which appears under the head of special receipts, and a further sum of 1,489*l.*, under the head of a refund from the Gold Coast Government, neither of which is actual revenue, the revenue collected in 1873, as compared with that collected in 1872, shows a decrease to the amount of 7,381*l.*

9. This decrease is attributable to the stagnation in trade during the first half of the year consequent upon the closing of the roads to the interior. It is true that the roads were closed during the greater part of 1872, but in consequence of the large importations brought into the Settlement during that period in expectation of a renewal of trade the revenue was not materially affected. On this subject the Acting Administrator, in reporting in July last on the Blue Book of 1872, states that "the merchants hoping that the interruption in

"trade was likely to be only of a temporary nature continued to "import up to a late period in the year (i. e., 1872), and that it "is upon 1873 that the principal pressure in that respect will fall, "as there were heavy stocks in hand without any immediate prospect "of the renewal of intercourse with the interior which has since "fortunately taken place."

10. In the Blue Book Report it is stated, with reference to the expenditure of 1872, that "in consequence of outstanding claims all the "revenue of the year was paid out, irrespective of the particular re-"quirements of the year itself;" and as the expenditure for the year is not stated, it cannot be compared with that for 1873.

11. I will only add that the change which has been introduced since the beginning of the present year in the way of keeping the accounts of the Settlement with reference to payments made by the Crown Agents will in future enable the accountant to furnish more complete financial returns than heretofore, when they included only receipts and disbursements passing through the local Treasury.

Public Debt.

12. As explained in the return under this head, the public debt, on the 31st of December, was as follows:—

(1) 20,000*l.*, being the amount of a loan made in the beginning of the year 1873 by the Imperial Government to assist the Settlement at a period of great financial embarrassment in paying off large outstanding claims.

(2) 3,096*l.*, owed to the Crown Agents. This amount, as explained in paragraph 5, would have been reduced to 268*l.*, by remittances sent to the Crown Agents within the year, and on the receipt by the Crown Agents of a further remittance of 1,000*l.*, made in January of the present year, the debt will have been paid off.

(3) 288*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*, being the amount of two unclaimed deposits in the local Treasury, which were absorbed during the year 1872 in the general revenue.

(4) 136*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* moneys paid by the Sierra Leone Government on account of the services of Lagos.

(5) 116*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.*, owed to merchants. This amount was paid in January of the present year.

13. The above included the entire liabilities of the Settlement on the 31st of December, although it is right to state that in January of the present year payments to the amount of 634*l.* were made for services which properly belong to the previous year. Of this amount 475*l.* was salary due to the Administrator, which, it was understood, was being paid by the Crown Agents until the receipt after the close of the year of instructions from the Secretary of State that payments of this nature were to be made by the local Treasury.

Military Expenditure.

14. The defensive force of the Settlement has for several years past consisted of Houssa armed police, varying in number from 150 to 350.

15. During 1872 and 1873 a large number of Houssas was withdrawn for service on the Gold Coast, and by the middle of October

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last there were only 40 left in the Settlement, the force being replaced during that month by a detachment of the 2nd West India Regiment, who remained here until the return of the Houssas in the beginning of March of the present year.

16. The annual cost of maintaining 150 privates, including an inspector, sub-intendent, priest, schoolmaster, and non-commissioned officers, say, 183 of all ranks, may be stated as being 5,000*l.*

Public Works.

17. The expenditure under this head has been chiefly in the repair of the Custom House pier, and in general repairs to public buildings. No public work of any importance was undertaken during the year.

Legislation.

18. The Ordinances relating to the fiscal measures stated under the head of taxes, duties, &c., formed the principal part of the legislation of the past year.

Civil Establishment.

19. Various changes have taken place in the civil establishment during the year 1873, but chiefly of a temporary nature. The government was administered temporarily by the present Governor-in-Chief from December, 1872, up to August, 1873, when the Collector of Customs administered the government until my arrival in October. The Collector of Customs having been temporarily appointed in October to the Acting Collectorship at the Gold Coast, the office was held by the officer commanding the detachment, 2nd West India Regiment, until the beginning of January last, when the Collector of Customs at Sierra Leone arrived to assume the duties of the office.

Foreign Consuls.

20. The German Empire is the only power which is represented here by a Consul.

Population.

21. A variety of circumstances contributes to prevent any return under this head being reliable. It is believed that tho population of the Island of Lagos alone is not now under 50,000.

22. Amongst the European population, which at the beginning of the year numbered 90, there were 13 deaths, showing a mortality at the rate of 14·4 per cent. per annum.

Ecclesiastica Return.

23. The following are the numbers given in the Blue Book as generally attending the churches and chapels of the several denominations:—

Wesleyan - - - - - - -	1,370
Church Missionary Society - - - -	1,217
Roman Catholic - - - - -	500

Education.

24. The attendance at the schools in connection with the several denominations appears from the returns to be as follows:—

Church Missionary Society - - -	673
Roman Catholic - - - - - -	235
Wesleyan - - - - - - -	228

25. In the estimates of 1873 a grant of 100*l.* to each of the three denominations for the promotion of education was provided for, but the financial state of the Colony has not admitted of any payment being made up to the present time under this head.

Imports and Exports.

26. The value of imports and exports for the last two years was as follows:—

Imports.

1872.	1873.
£	£
366,256 - - - -	258,883

Exports.

£	£
444,848 - - - -	347,204

27. It must be borne in mind in comparing the exports of the two years that the export return of 1873 differs from that of 1872 in excluding articles (to the value in 1873 of 59,782*l.*) which are not exports, the product of the Colony, but imports from Europe and elsewhere re-exported to places outside the Settlement.

28. The principal exports are palm oil, palm kernels, cotton and ivory, which are bartered chiefly for cotton goods, spirits, and tobacco.

Shipping.

29. The number of vessels entered was 178, with an aggregate tonnage of 29,431 tons, and the number cleared was 170 of 27,756 tons.

30. This return also cannot fairly be compared with that of 1872, which included the number and tonnage of the mail steamers calling at Lagos on their outward and homeward voyage. The tonnage entered and cleared in 1873, inclusive of the mail steamers, would amount to 118,832 and 117,157 tons respectively, compared with 118,688 and 119,415 tons in 1872.

Gaols and Prisoners.

31. Having already specially reported on the defective state of the Criminal Prison and the impossibility of carrying out in the present building a proper system of prison discipline, I will only remark on this head that shot drill has been introduced during the present year, which I am hopeful will act in some measure as a deterrent from crime.

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32. The number of offences reported to the police during the last four years is as follows:—

1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.
2,293	2,053	2,357	1,525

And of convictions before the Courts:—

1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.
2,320	2,042	1,319	1,060

33. It is satisfactory to remark that the criminal returns of the past year compare favourably with those of former years, and that offences are few against the person.

Hospital.

34. During the temporary occupation of the Colonial Hospital by a detatchment of the 2nd West India Regiment from October, 1873, to March of the present year, a suitable building was hired as a hospital. This is the building reported on in the Blue Book.

Lunatic Asylum.

35. There are at present in confinement two male and ten female lunatics. There is no separate lunatic asylum, portions of the Debtor's Prison and Criminal Prison being set apart for the male and female lunatics respectively.

General Remarks.

I am happy to state that the Colony is gradually recovering from the effects of the stagnation in trade which followed the closing of the roads to the interior by the Egbas and Jebus in the early part of 1872.

The roads were opened to commerce with the Egbas in the month of June, 1873, but up to the present time the Jebu roads remain closed, except for the transit of provisions.

I have, &c.,

The Governor-in-Chief, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) GEO. C. STRAHAN, Administrator.

ST. HELENA.

ST. HELENA.

No. 12.

No. 12.

Governor JANISCH to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, St. Helena, Feb. 26, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for 1873.

2. Abstracts of the returns of revenue and expenditure were prepared and forwarded to your Lordship in my Despatch of the 8th instant, but I was unable to forward the book in consequence of the returns of trade and shipping from the Customs Department being unfinished until now.

3. The revenue for the year amounts to 14,979*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*, and exceeds the revenue of the previous year, 1872, by 1,051*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*

4. The expenditure has for several years past been in excess of the revenue, the reductions made from time to time in the establishment, although large, being insufficient to overtake the annual decrease in the falling revenue. This, together with the loss sustained by damages from the heavy flood on 20th February, 1873, caused a considerable excess of expenditure in the first six months of the year. From July, 1873, a large saving was made in the salaries of Governor and Colonial Secretary, which were reduced by your Lordship from a total of 2,700*l.* to 900*l.* for the combined offices, in consequence of which, with other retrenchments and some improvements in the receipts, the expenditure of the last six months of the year was covered by the revenue, and the deficiency of the first six months was partially but not wholly recovered. The total for the year was 16,699*l.* 5*s.* 11½*d.*, or 1,719*l.* 7*s.* 10½*d.* more than the revenue. As, however, 750*l.* of this amount was applied in payment of debentures, the true excess would be 969*l.* 7*s.* 10½*d.*, out of which the sum of 646*l.* was incurred on account of flood damages. It was anticipated that the deficit would exceed 3,500*l*, without taking into account the damage subsequently caused by the flood.

5. The debt which in July, 1873, amounted to 21,233*l.*, was in the following six months reduced to 20,010*l.*

6. Since the opening of the Suez Canal there has been a steady decline of the trade annually until the present year, which shows an increase as compared with 1872. The total of vessels, including ships of war and mail packets, amounted to 717, or 50 more than 1872. Or, reckoning merchant vessels only which have paid the port fees, we have for 1873, 677 vessels, tonnage 423,766, against 559 vessels, tonnage 382,842, in 1872, being an increase of 118 vessels, or 40,924 tons. The imports and exports of the two years are as follows:—

	1872.	1873.
	£	£
Imports - -	52,070	54,998
Oil from whalers -	31,150	36,500
Total imports -	£83,220	£91,498
Exports - -	10,337	6,072
Oil to United States	31,150	36,500
Total exports -	£41,487	£42,572

7. The distress set forth by the inhabitants in a memorial to your Lordship in March, 1871, occasioned by the reductions in the establishments at this station, and the change in the course of the Eastern trade, has been largely alleviated in the last few months by the fortunate opening of an easy means of emigration for all those who were unable to find further employment here.

ST. HELENA.

8. So long ago as 1852, when the place was in a far more prosperous condition, a petition was forwarded by the then Governor, Sir Thomas Gore Browne, from a number of the inhabitants, praying for assistance to enable them to emigrate. Attempts were also subsequently made in various directions to secure the means of a free emigration for the unemployed poor to some larger Colony, but without any prospect of success until the working of the copper mines in Namaqualand created a demand for labourers from this Island at the close of 1871.

9. The workmen then sent from this place secured for themselves so good a repute, that a vessel was chartered for the conveyance of emigrants to Cape Town and to Port Elizabeth, and more recently to Natal. At the latter place they proved so acceptable that an emigrant ship (the 'Actæa') has since been constantly employed in the service, and at the request of the Natal Government I have appointed an emigration agent on their behalf, who is authorized to forward passengers by the monthly mail steamers. During the last year 441 have emigrated to Natal, and 258 to the Cape of Good Hope, making a total emigration since 1871 of 1340.

10. The fear now is, not that there will be any difficulty to provide means of emigration for our unemployed labourers, but that it will be difficult to retain those who have been steadily employed as our best workmen and were hitherto well satisfied, but are now unsettled by the golden accounts and invitations which they receive from Natal, and the easy means placed at their disposal for removal thither.

11. On this account the emigration is not without its disadvantages, particularly as the infirm and helpless remain in undiminished numbers to be supported by the reduced population. But with all this, it is a just cause of thankfulness in the Island that such an opening has been so opportunely provided for our surplus population, who could not have remained here without great distress, and who had no means whatever of providing passages for themselves. It is gratifying also to state that remittances exceeding a thousand pounds have already been made by the emigrants to their friends at St. Helena. These remittances from the Cape of Good Hope are rendered easy by the Money Order Office opened about four years ago, and I have applied to the Government of Natal to authorize the same convenience there.

12. Copies of the returns relating to crime and prison discipline were forwarded in my Despatch, with reports from the Chief Justice and Sheriff. Serious crime is unknown, and nearly the whole of the convictions may be classed under three heads, viz.:—Refusal of duty on the part of seamen from the passing shipping; disorderly conduct on the part of a few women of the class who are to be found in every seaport town; and petty pilfering. The daily average of prisoners in gaol was nine, and in the whole year there were only five convictions for indictable offences, all for small theft.

13. The Hospital returns call for no special report. There has been no prevailing sickness in the place, and only 80 deaths in the Island during the year, a large proportion of whom were infants.

14. In the Lunatic Asylum, containing seven patients, no deaths

had occurred; but the arrangements for the care of this unfortunate class are far from satisfactory, and I am now in correspondence with the Poor Relief Board on the subject.

15. On the 20th February, 1873, the Island was suddenly visited by a heavy flood, in which unhappily a small cottage situated in Friar's Valley was swept away, and its inmates, a labourer and seven of his sons, were drowned. Considerable damage was also caused both to public and private property.

16. The failure of a number of the trees in the Chinchona Plantation was described in the Report forwarded by Admiral Patey in his Despatch of 17th March, 1873. The first growth of the young plants was highly favourable; but after attaining some height, it was found that many of them were attacked by a disease in the stem, which spread upwards until it killed the tree. The disease was attributed to the cold, wet, rocky subsoil, to which the roots of the larger trees penetrated.

17. Dr. Hooker, to whom this Report was referred, has pointed out that precisely similar difficulties occurred in the Chinchona Plantations in India in cases where the water lodged in the subsoil, and that to a great extent the same difficulty was experienced in Java, and he suggests that the ground should have been trenched and drained to ensure success.

18. It has not been possible as yet to do anything towards the extension of the plantation in the manner recommended by Dr, Hooker, as the labour available for this work is at present necessarily employed in the care of the trees and grounds at Plantation House.

19. The encouraging view which Dr. Hooker takes of the suitability of the climate and soil of this Island for a Chinchona plantation is borne out by the thriving condition of the trees which remain. When I visited the plantation at Diana's Peak a few days since there were more than 300 trees, all of them except 27 were healthy, the largest being 14½ feet in height, with a circumference of 10½ inches. About 50 were between that and 10 feet in height, the remainder varying from 6 to 10 feet. A large number of the trees were in full flower, and perfectly strong and vigorous in their appearance.

20. These trees are all situated near the summit of the main ridge of the Island, at a height of not less than 2,500 feet above the sea, and it was the opinion of the late superintendent that it would be useless to attempt the growth of Chinchona at any lower altitude. It is therefore interesting to notice that a solitary plant left in the nursery grounds at Plantation House (about 1,500 above the sea) is not inferior to any of those growing at Diana's Peak.

21. The small plantation of young coffee trees referred to in the last Report of the superintendent has made highly favourable progress, and yielded in this year 250 lbs. of coffee, which has just been gathered, and is of the finest quality.

22. The capability of the Island to produce coffee of the best description has, indeed, been long proved, but little care was taken of its growth so long as the calls of the shipping and a large garrison made it more profitable to cultivate vegetables for sale on the spot.

ST. HELENA.

The altered trade of the place makes it necessary now to secure some article of export, and success in any efforts for that purpose even on a small scale will lead to encouraging results.

23. On this account attention has also been given to the growth of fibre from the New Zealand flax and aloe, and the experiments up to the present continue to be full of promise. There has been, however, an unwillingness to enter largely on the cultivation of the fibre until the success of these experiments had been established, and partly, also, from the fear that after the growth of the fibre there would be difficulty in cleaning and preparing it for the English market from want of proper machinery. I am glad to say that this difficulty has at last been removed by the importation a few days ago of a valuable machine, with steam power, on the pattern of those used by the Colonial and Foreign Fibre Company. For the opening up of this branch of industry the Island is mainly indebted to the counsels and efforts of Sir Charles Elliot.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HUDN. R. JANISCH.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

No. 13.

No. 13.

Governor Sir HARRY ST. GEORGE ORD, C.B., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Singapore,
October 5, 1873.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of the Straits Settlements for 1872. I also forward the copy of a Report by Mr. G. Campbell, Acting Lieutenant-Governor, Penang,* on the Blue Book for that Settlement. I have not yet received any special Report from the Lieutenant-Governor of Malacca.

Taxes and Fees.

2. There has been no alteration in the taxes and fees levied in the Colony.

Assets and Liabilities.

3. The balance to the credit of the Colony was on the 1st January, 1872, $464,467; it is on the 1st January, 1873, $689,602; showing a gain of $225,135 in the year, notwithstanding a considerable expenditure on public works, and some increase to the police and medical establishments. A great portion of this balance has been already

* The Report on Penang will be found printed at page 170 of Part I., 1874.

voted for several important and much-needed public works, more especially a general improvement of the prisons at all the Settlements.

Revenue and Expenditure.

REVENUE.

4. The revenue for 1872 and the previous year was:—

	$
1871	1,405,703
1872	1,536,274
Balance in favour of 1872	$130,571

5. The principal part of this balance is obtained by

	$
Additional revenue on licences	46,466
„ revenue on stamps	30,538
„ port and harbour dues	12,051
„ postage	7,386
„ fines	9,856
„ interest and profit on coin	41,789
„ miscellaneous	3,317
And the transfer of the Police Pension Fund to the credit of the Colony	64,287

From this, however, has to be deducted the loss by diminished receipts from land revenue, $23,255; convict reimbursements, $10,923; and sale of Government property, $37,150. The decrease in land revenue is due principally to a large sum received in 1871 for encroachments at Penang, and to delay in collecting the arrears of rent at that Settlement after the discovery of the defalcations there; but there is every reason to expect an increase in another year under this head of revenue. The decrease in convict reimbursements is due to reduction of numbers of Indian and Ceylon convicts, and that establishment is now entirely broken up, and the item will disappear from our accounts in future. The sale of steamers in 1871 is the cause of the other item of decrease.

EXPENDITURE.

6. The expenditure was for 1871, $1,254,111; for 1872, $1,296,311; excess in 1872, $42,200. The principal part of this excess is on the following items:—

	$
Establishments	34,514
Pensions	8,426
Education	3,323
Gaols	2,155
Lighthouses	2,373
Conveyance of mails	6,522
Transport	6,654
Miscellaneous	5,008
Public works	25,381
Purchase of land	4,459

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

On the other hand, the expenditure was less in 1872 on the item

	$
Cost of convicts - - - - -	6,624
Government vessels - - - - -	10,765
Military contribution - - - -	27,689
Special expenses - - - - - -	9,274

The increase in establishments is principally owing to the reorganization of the police and to increase to the prison staff; establishment of the Lock Hospital, which, however, is met by special receipts; increase to the Post-office establishment; and the engagement of a better class of Chinese interpreters. The reduction of the military expenditure consequent on the new arrangement is $27,682; and the decrease in special expenses is owing to the heavy charges for the reception of the King of Siam on his first visit, and the expense of the census in 1871, though in 1872 a deficit was found in the Malacca Treasury of $10,356.

7. I noticed in my Report on the Blue Book of 1871 that there was a large increase in the land revenue, and in 1872 I have referred to the decrease. Regulations are now in force as regards the sale of lands, and the demand is by no means diminished, though it is not considered desirable to put too much into the market at once. There have been large receipts in 1873 from land, and the item promises for some years to be a permanent source of revenue, and all land is now sold subject to a ground-rent.

8. The increase over the estimated revenue under licences is due to a payment during the year of 13 months' rent of the opium farm; and under the head of stamps the increase is principally in commercial stamps, and shows an increase of business. This commercial prosperity is likewise noticeable in the increased revenue from port and harbour dues.

9. The postal revenue, estimated at $81,290, reached $96,932, and shows increased correspondence. The decreased rates of postage alluded to by me in my Report on Blue Book of 1871 have been introduced, and greater facilities afforded to the public for the delivery of their letters.

10. The following is the estimated and actual revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the year:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure
	$	$
Estimated - - -	1,352,696	1,579,820
Actual - - - -	1,536,274	1,296,311
Difference (more) - -	$183,578	(less) $283,509

11. Thus while the revenue exceeded the estimate by $183,578, the expenditure was less than had been estimated by $283,509, and the balance of actual revenue over expenditure was $240,163.

Local Revenue and Expenditure.

12. The only local revenues in the Colony are those raised by the municipalities of the three towns by a tax on horses, carriages, and

vehicles of all kinds, and on houses and land. The money so raised is expended in the conservancy of the towns, and the upkeep of the streets and roads within certain limits, and in contributing to the cost of the police. At Penang a water supply is maintained by the municipality, who are allowed to levy a water-rate on houses and land.

13. The following shows the amounts raised and expended in the past year, and in 1871:—

Singapore.

	1871.	1872.
	$	$
Revenue - - - -	136,323	138,896
Expenditure - - -	137,029	149,460
	*$706	*$10,564

Penang.

Revenue - - - -	86,155	105,845
Expenditure - - -	81,765	91,622
	$4,390	$14,223

Malacca.

Revenue - - -	18,816	20,265
Expenditure - - -	18,542	18,440
	$274	$1,821

Public Works.

14. The principal works undertaken at Singapore in 1872 were the commencement of the new iron market at Clyde Terrace; improvements to the barrack accommodation of the police by fitting up for them the old Sepoy lines; certain improvements to the prison; and extra accommodation at the pauper institution.

15. A large expenditure was incurred on the North Sands Lighthouse, but I regret to say without any result. The iron lighthouse and the light are here, and it is hoped that the piles will be driven next fine season.

16. At Penang, beyond some improvements to the prison, no new works were attempted. A considerable sum was as usual expended in roads in Province Wellesley, to carry out a scheme devised in 1870 for opening up that district.

17. At Malacca no expenditure was incurred beyond the usual current upkeep and repairs.

18. On the whole, with the exception of the North Sands Lighthouse, the expenditure on public works in 1872 was the same as in 1871.

Legislation.

19. The principal Ordinances passed during the year, and which have received confirmation, were :—

* Met by drawing on Reserve Fund.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

An Ordinance to repeal and re-enact the Police Force Ordinance passed in 1871.

An Ordinance to make perpetual the Preservation of the Peace Ordinance.

An Ordinance to make perpetual the Dangerous Societies Ordinance.

An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Pawnbrokers.

An Ordinance for the regulation of Ports and Harbours.

Pensions.

20. Mr. Sheppard, of the Public Works Department, retired from the service on a pension of $630, but no fresh pensions were granted during the year.

Population.

21. The results and tables of the census of 1871 have again been published this year.

22. The Malays in number rank first, being 19,250 in Singapore, 70,464 in Penang and Province Wellesley, and 57,474 in Malacca. The proportion of males and females is nearly equal in each Settlement. Several other Malay races are to be found, but principally in Singapore, to the number of 8,534, though of these only 2,769 are females.

23. The Chinese number in Singapore 54,098, of whom 7,467 are females; in Penang 36,382, of whom 6,214 are females; and in Malacca 13,456, with a proportion of 3,606 women.

24. The natives of India also muster in considerable numbers, being 32,992, with 3,491 of a half-race between Malays and Indians, born in Penang. Of this number a proportion of 9,542 are females. There are 11,191 of these people to be found in Singapore, 18,486 in Penang and Province Wellesley, and only 3,415 in Malacca.

25. The Europeans and Americans only number 1,730 in the whole Colony, and of these 1,329 reside in Singapore.

26. There are 2,164 Eurasians in Singapore, 1,383 in Penang, and 2,225 in Malacca, and the females outnumber the males by 246.

Imports and Exports.

27. The imports and exports of the three Settlements as compared with those of 1871 are as follows:—

	1871.	1872.
	$	$
Singapore - -	36,766,530	43,415,383
Penang - - -	16,881,537	17,306,654
Malacca - -	2,368,594	2,928,185
	$56,016,661	$63,650,222
		56,016,661
		$7,633,561

INCREASE, 1872.

	$		£
Singapore - - -	6,648,853	or	1,412,881
Penang - - - -	425,117	or	90,337
Malacca - - -	559,591	or	118,913
	$7,623,561	or	£1,622,131

EXPORTS.

	1871.	1872.
	$	$
Singapore - -	32,002,807	39,020,121
Penang - - -	17,327,482	19,908,641
Malacca - -	2,477,312	3,220,567
	$51,807,601	$62,149,329
		51,807,601
		$10,341,728

INCREASE, 1872.

	$		£
Singapore - - -	7,017,314	or	1,491,179
Penang - - - -	2,581,159	or	548,496
Malacca - - -	743,255	or	157,491
	$10,341,728	or	£2,197,617

28. In imports the increase in Singapore is about 19 per cent.; at Penang it by no means exhibits the rapid increase it showed in previous years, and the imports from the United Kingdom, British Colonies and coasting, show a considerable decrease, but on the whole trade of the place the increase is about 2½ per cent. At Malacca the increase is considerable, being about 22 per cent.

In exports the increase at Singapore is 22 per cent.; at Penang, about 16 per cent.; and at Malacca, not less than 32 per cent.

This return represents the trade of the Colony as a whole in a very flourishing condition.

29. The items of imports on which there have been the greatest increase are:—

	Singapore.	Penang.
	$	$
Arms - - - -	—	100,000
Coals - - - -	276,000	
Coffee - - - -	129,000	
Gambier - - - -	416,000	
Grains - - - -	759,000	50,000
Guns - - - -	1,140,000	100,000
Earthenware - - -	—	90,000
Fish - - - - -	170,000	
Hides - - - -	143,000	46,000

	Singapore.	Penang.
	$	$
Metals	912,000	1,135,000
Opium	1,085,000	
Sago	114,000	
Specie	694,000	
Spices	804,000	
Tobacco	430,000	280,000
Wood	120,000	
Woollen goods	140,000	

At Penang there was a considerable decrease, however, in pepper, amounting to $585,000, in specie of $162,000, in silks of $150,000, and in opium of $178,000.

The decrease was very large in cotton goods at both Settlements, being $1,100,000 at Singapore, and $84,000 at Penang.

At Singapore there was an increase in the five staple commodities. Gutta-percha $989,000, Gambier $416,000, pepper $734,000, tin $930,000, and opium $1,085,000.

The relative imports in these commodities at the two places was as follows:—

	Singapore.	Penang.
Gambier	1,413,478	
Gutta-percha	1,798,336	85,018
Opium	6,131,190	1,129,060
Pepper	1,938,196	1,857,484
Tin	3,813,661	4,472,009

At Malacca the increase was principally, in specie $227,000, opium $33,000, tin $118,000, and grain $92,000.

30. The principal items of export at Singapore in which an increase occurs are:—

	$
Cotton goods	210,000
Fish	200,000
Gambier	515,000
Grain	870,000
Gutta-percha	907,000
Opium	2,030,000
Pepper	248,000
Specie	400,000
Tin	1,275,000

At Penang, the increase in exports was in

	$
Grain	620,000
Opium	270,000
Pepper	206,000
Tin	393,000
Sugar	57,000
Tobacco	105,000

At Malacca the increased articles of export were :—

	$
Opium - - - - - - -	65,000
Tin - - - - - - - -	630,000
Grain - - - - - - -	20,000

Shipping.

The following Table shows the number of ships, British and foreign, with their tonnage, which entered and cleared from the Colony in the years 1871 and 1872 :—

	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
1871 - - -	2,890	1,301,752	2,995	1,144,074
1872 - - - -	3,197	1,676,020	3,058	1,387,695
Increase in 1872 -	307	374,268	57	243,621

32. An increase during the year of one-ninth in the number, and one-fourth in the gross tonnage of ships entering the ports of the Settlements (exclusive of native craft), is satisfactory evidence of the rapidly increasing commercial prosperity of the Colony.

Lighthouses.

33. As I have stated elsewhere, in 1871 a contract was made for the erection of a lighthouse, to be placed on the North Sands, and to take the place of the 'Torch' lightship. Owing to some mismanagement on the part of the contractor's employés, it was not completed, and nothing more was done than getting out the lighthouse and light. The contract was again renewed in 1872, but another season has passed without the contractor being able to drive any of the piles. It is hoped, however, that next season a more successful attempt will be made.

Agriculture.

34. Although this year I am unable to supply better information under this head than hitherto, I am happy to be able to state that registers are in the course of preparation at Singapore and Malacca which will, I trust, enable much more reliable statistics to be given next year.

Gaols and Prisons, and Charitable Institutions.

35. The Legislature, having taken into consideration the state o these establishments, and a Report on gaols by the Commission appointed in 1871, decided on adopting, at a greatly increased cost, the improvements in prison discipline therein recommended. The removal of the transmarine convicts has enabled this to be carried out, and the whole of the long-sentenced prisoners of the Colony are now located at Singapore, under strict rules of penal discipline.

The pauper institutions have been placed under committees of

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

officials and private gentlemen who consented to co-operate with the Government, and it is satisfactory to me to state that I think all these institutions, as well as the gaols, are at last placed on a proper footing.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) H. ST. G. ORD.

LABUAN.

LABUAN.

No. 14.

No. 14.

Governor BULWER to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Labuan,
November 3, 1873.

MY LORD,

IN accordance with the intention expressed at the conclusion of my Despatch of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to submit to your Lordship a separate Report upon the trade of this Colony with the coast of Borneo and the neighbouring countries.

2. The accompanying return is a return, which I have prepared from the annual Blue Books, of the imports into the Colony from the coast and the countries referred to, from the year 1848 down to the close of the last completed year, 1872; and it shows the several articles imported and their official or declared values in each year.

3. In preparing this return I have placed all the articles of import under thirty-eight heads. Each principal article is shown under a separate head; but articles whose value has been insignificant, or whose importation has been irregular or accidental, I have brought together under the one head of "Miscellaneous."

4. Of the several articles of import specified in the return some, namely, attapts, kajangs, brassware, cloth and cottons, cocoanuts, horses, mats, betel-nuts, cocoanut oil, padi, pigs, rice, and tobacco, are imported for use and consumption in the Island.

Others, namely, beeswax, bezoar stones, edible birds'-nests, camphor, cinnamon, coffee, dammar, gutta-percha, india-rubber, hides, pearls, mother-o'pearl, pepper, rattans, rattan mats, rope, sago flour, raw sago, shark's-fins, tinder, tortoiseshell, and trepang, are imported for the purpose of re-exportation to Singapore, and may be described as the articles of *trade,* as distinguished from the articles intended for *local consumption.**

5. Thus, then, the importations from the coast into the Island may be divided into two distinct classes:—first, those which are intended for local use and consumption; secondly, those which are intended for the export trade to Singapore.

6. An interesting description of the principal articles of import named above will be found in the inclosed memorandum by Mr. Low,

---

* It is necessary to make some qualification in respect of certain of the articles above named. For instance, brassware and cloth are imported mostly for local use, but some portion is generally re-exported every year to other parts of the coast. Horses also are imported for Island use, but occasionally their purchasers or subsequent owners may send them for sale in Singapore. Again, rattans are imported for purpose of re-exportation to Singapore, but some portion will be retained for Island use. In drawing the distinction between articles intended for local use and articles intended for trade re-exportation, I have thought it sufficient to have regard to the general purposes.

who, as Colonial Harbour-master, is charged with the preparation of the trade returns of the Island.

The noticeable features in the coast-trade of Labuan, to which I would on the present occasion request your Lordship's attention, are these:—

Firstly.—The larger, and in every sense the more important and valuable, portion of the importations from the coast and neighbouring countries is the trading portion, that is to say, that portion which is designed for re-exportation to Singapore, &c., and intended for the European or China markets. That portion which is intended for local use and consumption is not only smaller in quantity, but it is of an altogether subordinate character.

Secondly.—During the first twelve years, or thereabouts, of the period to which the return relates, the importations from the coast were from those parts which are more immediately opposite to or in the neighbourhood of the Island. During the latter fourteen years, or thereabouts, of the period the importations which have been received have been from a more extended area, including the north-east and east coasts of Borneo and the islands of Salu, Cagayan Salu, Balabac, and Palawan.

Thirdly.—The importations from these more distant parts are generally of a more valuable character as articles of trade than the importations from the nearer neighbourhood.

Fourthly.—The coast-trade during the first twelve years of the period (namely, from 1848 to 1859) was very limited in extent, and it is evident that little progress was made in it during that time, the total value of the importations in one year only out of the twelve years referred to having exceeded or reached 10,000*l.*

In 1860 the first substantial improvement was visible, and this improvement rapidly and steadily continued every year until 1869, the total value having increased from 12,000*l.* (in round numbers) in 1860 to 50,000*l.* in 1866, to 65,000*l.* in 1867, and to 80,000*l.* in 1868.

Fifthly.—The coast-trade reached its height in the last-named year. After 1868 it not only made no further progress, but it declined. The completeness of the 1869 returns has indeed been questioned, but in 1870 the value of the importations had certainly fallen back to 55,000*l.* During the years 1871 and 1872 it remained at the level it had formerly reached in 1867.

8. Of the exports from Labuan to the coast and neighbouring countries no account has been kept, and consequently no return can be supplied; but the principal articles so exported are—brass, brass dishes, wire and other brassware, boxes, candles, cotton cloth, cotton thread, thread for embroidery, earthenware, gambier, gongs, gunpowder, iron bars, empty jars, muskets, opium, salt, sugar, tobacco, &c., &c., all of which are obtained from Singapore by the Labuan traders.

9. The annual value of these exports, or re-exportations, may be computed according to the value of the importations from the coast, for which they are in fact given or sent in exchange.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, (Signed) HENRY BULWER.

&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1.

RETURN of IMPORTS from the COAST of BORNEO and NEIGHBOURING ISLANDS from 1848 to 1872; showing the articles imported and the value in sterling of the same in each year.

No.	Articles	Country whence Imported.	1848.	1849, '50, '51	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	No.
			£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1	Attaps and kajangs	Brunei and Coast of Borneo	—		43	37	20	51	17	16	11	57	83	364	35	98	106	81	225	208	192	98	81	205	143	1
2	Beeswax	Coast of Borneo and Palawan	—		32	1,468	950	568	645	88	366	100	229	1,065	258	1,576	2,683	3,771	2,007	1,683	11,325	2,757	1,199	1,827	1,533	2
3	Bezoar stones	Coast of Borneo	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	279	100	17	25	—	150	166	8	5	20	3
4	Birds'-nests, edible	Coast of Borneo and East Coast	—		619	50	219	1,075	712	154	312	333	500	1,483	1,715	3,204	7,235	5,940	4,793	5,566	3,245	8,846	8,056	6,070	6,799	4
5	Brassware	Brunei	—		743	620	316	358	237	273	—	210	729	512	100	1,037	1,287	1,202	1,609	2,436	1,344	523	295	458	1,273	5
6	Camphor	Coast and East Coast	—		161	962	103	88	676	443	343	1,364	1,395	3,286	2,658	4,626	11,067	6,275	6,400	6,735	4,845	4,069	4,688	2,575	2,901	6
7	Canes	Coast	—		48	5	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	437	—	—	—	—	—	—	62	1	7
8	Cattle	—	—		489	453	191	49	69	129	112	216	177	141	10	—	122	378	261	249	66	69	101	234	11	8
9	Cinnamon	—	—		—	—	—	31	368	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	630	280	578	503	221	9	9
10	Cloth and cottons	Coast of Brunei	—		2,095	3,698	2,979	7,843	2,816	2,820	12	6	1,560	1,800	—	170	200	65	1,704	180	1,955	505	630	87	406	10
11	Cocoanuts	Coast and Cagayan Sulu	—		216	118	123	102	165	231	75	126	125	136	325	285	285	228	96	296	321	181	253	205	63	11
12	Coffee	Sulu	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	125	—	—	—	—	—	—	860	400	107	142	126	—	12
13	Dammar-resin	Coast and Palawan	—		—	1	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	56	—	—	—	—	—	—	135	217	1,325	1,054	13
14	Gutta-percha, india-rubber, &c	Coast and East Coast	—		5	37	718	26	31	33	—	—	50	317	—	36	454	890	3,695	6,140	14,496	5,786	5,716	14,670	19,496	14
15	Hides	Coast and Sulu	—	No Returns kept.	26	37	60	65	108	30	79	1,168	197	95	27	125	—	270	393	439	706	743	420	510	244	15
16	Horses	—	—		26	57	37	50	25	25	12	—	25	20	8	—	—	45	—	—	64	18	16	8	12	16
17	Mats	Brunei	—		80	59	165	240	244	34	87	—	—	—	—	—	188	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	17
18	Nuts, betel	Coast	—		1	33	6	5	4	13	26	23	21	47	23	20	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	48	7	18
19	Oil, cocoanut	Coast and Cagayan Sulu	—		305	313	153	203	192	193	85	352	402	987	—	1,108	2,213	1,278	1,203	3,852	1,156	638	702	2,430	947	19
20	Padi	Coast	—		118	236	111	146	127	234	133	223	222	336	307	468	660	191	695	535	243	559	1,015	956	524	20
21	Pearls	Coast, East Coast, and Sulu	—		18	77	317	254	208	—	—	47	—	625	—	697	375	925	1,827	15,015	11,523	3,708	5,081	1,510	1,651	21
22	Mother-o'-pearl	—	—		—	—	—	2	18	—	—	—	—	—	15	600	156	390	1,560	—	—	519	342	1,725	1,754	22
23	Pepper	Coast	—		225	25	13	280	323	260	218	306	415	948	232	335	340	397	81	90	187	62	19	45	65	23
24	Pigs	—	—		72	90	49	10	42	14	63	67	217	125	432	280	412	122	107	—	60	202	368	258	404	24
25	Rattans	Palawan and East Coast	—		—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	401	1,171	2,495	395	665	560	2,687	2,082	423	210	1,532	1,686	2,535	25
26	Rattan mats	Palawan	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	211	161	—	63	623	360	692	383	311	1,065	897	26
27	Rice	Coast	—		986	415	589	620	322	797	292	375	370	289	531	1,142	1,873	1,798	2,532	3,735	2,638	1,115	2,080	1,713	514	27
28	Rope	Sulu	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	330	919	759	382	594	688	29	28
29	Sago flour	Coast	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	537	482	—	810	477	1,710	11,212	4,421	4,847	5,743	6,341	29
30	„ raw	—	—		171	156	170	172	1,002	1,927	729	2,665	3,577	5,970	2,300	4,981	5,131	9,265	12,612	9,810	8,628	8,174	11,792	16,317	11,994	30
31	Sharks'-fins	East Coast	—		—	29	5	10	4	1	3	—	—	47	—	10	31	—	78	123	141	21	31	85	165	31
32	Tinder, vegetable	Coast	—		—	25	—	—	—	466	45	58	—	—	—	—	—	—	367	32	148	28	—	365	22	32
33	Tobacco, native	—	—		259	379	224	237	148	126	—	368	—	468	779	609	32	409	364	427	288	314	172	552	398	33
34	„ other	Sulu and Brunei	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	393	48	—	34
35	Tortoiseshell	Palawan, Sulu, and East Coast	—		34	19	114	1,412	65	146	333	104	—	1,166	25	590	355	315	447	273	547	600	742	897	1,950	35
36	Trepang	—	—		—	3	33	10	110	62	81	56	84	172	—	880	916	1,232	2,048	520	3,208	1,421	674	539	513	36
37	Specie	—	—		—	—	233	—	645	27	497	416	—	—	837	1,503	1,854	268	1,440	500	458	183	2,209	291	31	37
38	Miscellaneous	—	1,000		393	484	510	583	268	196	33	262	1,158	222	85	77	225	863	84	—	488	533	370	608	964	38
	Totals (by addition of above details)*		£ 1,000		7,165	9,886	8,455	14,444	9,591	8,742	3,947	8,902	12,062	21,792	13,985	25,774	39,435	38,048	50,770	65,405	82,188	48,099	55,599	66,157	65,701	
	Totals (according to 'Blue Book' returns)*		£ 1,000		7,190	9,901	8,385	14,461	9,605	9,444	3,956	8,307	12,613	19,872	13,995	25,784	39,446	37,428	50,773	65,408	80,096	48,435	55,417	66,234	65,911	

* In the above details shillings and pence are omitted. This omission will in most cases account for the difference between the totals by addition and the totals given in the Blue Book return. Where the difference is considerable, or where the added total is greater than the Blue Book total, this explanation will not, of course, hold good.

Enclosure 2.

ARTICLES IMPORTED FOR LOCAL USE AND CONSUMPTION.

Attaps and Kajangs.—Attaps are thatch made of the mature leaves of the "Nipa" (Nipa fruticans), which are doubled over a lath of bamboo or other light wood, and kept in their places by a stitch of rattan. Kajangs are mats made of the young leaflets of the same palm; the first make good roofing material. The kajangs are used chiefly for the walls and partitions of houses.

Brassware, Gongs, Guns, Wire, &c.—These, with the exception of brass guns, are brought from Brunei when there happens to be a scarcity in the shops of Labuan; they are all, except the guns, imported originally from Singapore. Brass guns have been cast in Brunei for a period of 200 years; till quite recently they formed the chief standard of value in native trade; Mexican and other dollars have now to a great extent superseded them in the vicinity of Labuan, but they still pass current at the rate of $25 per picul.

Cattle, including Goats.—Cattle were formerly brought to the Island from the north and north-west coast of Borneo, but they are not found to the south-west of Brunei; enough to supply the wants of the population and shipping are now reared in the Colony. The beef is of excellent quality. Goats are few in number and do not thrive in this damp climate.

Cloth, Native.—This article consists entirely of "sarongs," the chief article of native dress; they are hand-woven and of very durable quality. The women of Brunei and of the Illanun villages on the north coast are the two races which chiefly produce them. They were formerly woven by the Illanuns of native-grown cotton, but Manchester twist has now for the most part superseded this.

Cocoanuts and Cocoanut Oil.—These are imported in considerable quantities from the Papar River, and sometimes from the Island of Cagayan Sooloo. A large portion of the quantity used in Labuan is now grown in it, but as our traders supply a good deal to parts of the coast which do not produce it, quantities are yearly brought from Singapore.

Horses.—Very few horses are brought to Labuan in consequence of the difficulty of transporting them in the native boats. A very good breed of ponies might be procured in considerable numbers on the north-west coast, also at Cagayan Sooloo, and more at Sooloo itself.

Padi and Rice.—These were formerly produced at Tawaran and on other rivers of the coast of Borneo in quantities sufficient to supply the wants of Labuan at very moderate cost; but for five or six years the harvests have been very deficient, and Labuan has been chiefly fed from Singapore.

Tobacco.—The native tobacco is of very good quality, and is much preferred by the people of the coast to that brought from Palembung and Java. It is grown by the Idaan tribes in the neighbourhood of the mountain Kina Balou, and imported through the Bajows, from Tawaran, Meng Kabong, Inanam, and Patatan. It is imported for consumption in the Island only.

ARTICLES IMPORTED FOR THE EXPORT TRADE TO SINGAPORE.

Beeswax.—There is only one kind of beeswax, but it is of several qualities, depending on the greater or smaller quantity of foreign matter with which it is mixed; it comes from the whole coast of Borneo in small quantities, and in larger quantities from Palawan.

Bezoar Stones.—These concretions were formerly collected by the Kyans in the Barram River from the intestines of a species of monkey; they were all re-exported, having a supposed medicinal virtue in China.

Birds'-nests, Edible.—These are separated by the Chinese into three classes, having also several qualities in each class—the divisions are white, red, and black. They all appear to be produced by two kinds of small swallow; the black nests are by far the most common, and of much inferior value; besides being of a dark grey colour, these are much mixed with dirt and feathers. The white nests of the finest quality are without admixture of refuse matters, and of a semi-transparent white substance, resembling isinglass or gelatine. The red nests are of intermediate appearance between these two, and are said to be constructed by the bird which produces the white nests, but at a different season of the year. These nests are found on the walls of caverns in limestone and sandstone hills all along the coast, but by far the greater part of the supplies received at Labuan are brought from Sandakan Bay and the Kina Batangan River, on the east coast of Borneo. They are all re-exported for the Chinese trade.

Camphor.—This is the "Kapur barus" of Sumatra, which fetches in China a very high price; it is chiefly used in the process of embalming the dead. It is produced by two or three species of magnificent timber trees, of the genus "Dry obalanops," in all the countries of the Borneo coast north of Tanjong Barram, but not in the islands of Palawan or Sooloo; it is found in the crevices of the wood of some trees, but very few are met with in the state which produces it. When in large crystals, it is worth in Labuan $30 a cuttie; but it is most frequently brought in small tubular-shaped crystals. It has the property of evaporating very slowly.

Canes.—Canes of many kinds, suitable for walking-canes, umbrella-handles, and such purposes, abound in Borneo, but are not collected in this neighbourhood, the natives not being aware of their value; the few which have been brought to Labuan are of the kind known as Malacca canes.

Cinnamon.—This is brought from the river Kimanis (a contraction of the words Kayu manis, *i.e.* sweet wood), situated about forty miles from Labuan; it is produced by a species of Cinnamomeum, which very much resembles the plant of Ceylon, and is entirely of spontaneous production; it is exported to China.

Coffee.—A little only of this has been brought by Sooloo boats from Sooloo and Magindanau; it was of excellent quality, and was exported to Singapore.

Dammar.—This is a resin produced by various trees, chiefly of the Deptorocarpus order, also by one coniferous tree, a Dammarus, pro-

bably D. orientalis, which exudes it of a fine quality. There are many kinds, but that of which we receive the largest supplies is transparent, and of a pale yellowish colour; it is believed to be used principally in making varnishes, and is exported to Singapore.

Gutta-percha is collected in this vicinity of two kinds, but no great quantities have as yet been brought to market in comparison with the supplies which are believed to remain still untouched in the jungles; the tree which produces it is lofty, and appears to be of the same kind, "Isonandra," from which it was originally collected in Johore.

India-rubber is produced by two species of a climbing-tree, called Menuñg-an by the natives; this has been much more worked than the gutta-percha; in both cases the trees are destroyed to procure the commercial article, which exudes from rings cut at the distance of ten or twelve inches through the bark. Considerable supplies may still be expected from the east coast, but a few years of this destructive system of collection will exhaust all the sources of the supply. Neither of these articles are found in the islands of Sooloo or Palawan.

Hides.—These are chiefly buffalo hides, and are collected in small quantities in all the districts north of Tanjong Barram. The buffaloe abounds as a domestic animal; its flesh is preferred by the natives to that of ordinary cattle; it is also used for the saddle, for ploughing, and for such other draught purposes as are in practice to the north. All the hides are exported.

Pearls.—These are of two kinds—1st, the valuable pearls used by jewellers, which are the produce of the true pearl oyster (Meleagrina margaritifera) which grows to a large size in the Sooloo Seas; and 2nd, the small seed pearls which are found in the shell and animal of the Placenta orbicularis. The pearl oyster is plentiful amongst the Sooloo Islands, especially is the neighbourhood of Tawee Tawee, where the natives dive for it in twenty fathoms of water, and the pearls collected are said to be equal in value to the price of the shell, which would be $90,000 per year. The Placenta is found in abundance in the shallow muddy bays of Lubok on the north-west coast, and of Labuk and Sandakan on the east coast; the larger pearls produced by this animal are selected for the jewellers, the others are exported to India and China, where they are said to be used in medicine and burnt into lime for the Rajahs to chew with their betel and sīrih leaf.

Mother-of-Pearl Shell.—This is the shell of the Meleagrina margaritifera, and is collected of fine quality amongst the Sooloo Islands. The fishing annually produces 3,000 piculs; it is exported to Europe.

Pepper was in the beginning of the century cultivated to a large extent in the neighbourhood of the town of Brunei and in some other districts; it has been almost abandoned for the last sixty years, though in Kaleas and Papar some small gardens are kept up.

Rattans are brought from the east coast of Borneo and from the island of Palawan; those of the latter country being more carefully prepared, are of the finest quality; large quantities might be collected in the jungles of the countries named. They are chiefly exported for the China market, but having been lately much inquired for in Europe

LABUAN.

and America, they promise soon to become a much more considerable branch of trade.

Rattan Mats.—These are floor mats of a very durable quality made by the mountaineers of the island of Palawan; they are nearly all exported to the coast of Borneo, but, when the supply is sufficient, to Singapore.

Rope.—This is made by the people of Sooloo from the fibre of a species of plaintain, the Musa textilis of botanists; the cordage is white, and in all respects resembles Manilla rope.

Sago Flour.—This is the produce of a sago-washing establishment in the Kaleas River and of one at Totong, each owned by Chinese merchants resident in Labuan. The raw sago being bought from the natives on the spot, is brought into the state of flour by the Chinese workmen; in this state it is packed in bags and exported through Singapore to Europe.

Raw Sago.—The farinaceous pith of the Sagus lævis; it is brought to Labuan from Papar, Membakut, the rivers falling into the Kaleas and Padas, and from Totong. The tree being cut down and the trunk split in two pieces, the pith, mixed with woody fibre and other tissues, is dug out from the shell and taken to Labuan, where three washing establishments convert it into sago flour by repeated washings, and export it to Singapore.

Sharks' Fins.—These are collected along all the coasts of Borneo and in the Sooloo Seas, in which these animals abound. Being boiled into a gelatinous mass, they are used as strengthening food in China to which country they are all exported.

Tinder.—This vegetable substance is scraped from the leaf stems and trunk of a palm of the genus Harina, which grows on the banks of rivers on the north-west coast; it is exported to China.

Tortoiseshell.—This is of various qualities, the value depending chiefly on the distribution of the colours; the most ordinary kind fetches $5 per cattie, but that which being dark in the centre is of a clear white towards the edges, when of the best pattern, good thickness, and large size, is worth $50 a cattie, according to the distribution of the colours, the size and thickness of the plates; it varies to all prices between these extremes. It goes to China and Ceylon.

Trepang.—This is the dried sea-slug (Nolothuria) of many species; it varies very much in price; it is collected in small quantities along the north-west coasts, and in abundance amongst the reefs, islands, and bays of the east coast of the Sooloo Seas, and of Palawan. The Chinese esteem it an economical and nourishing article of food, and value the several kinds according to the abundance of nutritive properties they are believed to contain.

HUGH LOW.

Governor BULWER to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Labuan,
November 8, 1873.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of my previous Despatches on the trade of this Colony, I have now the honour to transmit for your Lordship's information a detailed return of the *Export* trade from 1848 to 1872, which has been prepared from the Blue Book returns during that period.

2. This is the return of what may be called the export trade *proper* of the Island.

3. There is, perhaps, no more interesting or important return connected with this Colony that I could furnish to your Lordship, for in this one Table, it may be said, are presented the whole results of the Colony of Labuan as a producing, manufacturing, and trading settlement, from the date of its establishment in 1848 to the present time.

4. The development of the coal mines was undoubtedly the primary object Her Majesty's Government had in view in sanctioning the occupation of the Island as a British Colony.

The present return shows the annual value of all the coal that has been exported from the Island or supplied to shipping.

5. It was considered that the Colony would acquire further importance, and the policy of its occupation be further justified by its becoming the emporium for receiving and developing the trade and commerce of the neighbouring coasts of Borneo and the islands adjacent.

The present return shows the value of all the trade that the Colony as a trade emporium has been able to attract or obtain from those countries, for the purpose of contribution to the European and China markets, through the great emporia of Singapore and Hong Kong.

6. The exports here shown in detail may be divided into two classes: 1st, the exports which are the produce or the manufacture of the Island itself; 2ndly, the exports which are the produce of the coast of Borneo and the neighbouring countries, and which, being obtained or brought thence, are forwarded to the Singapore, and, in some few instances, to the Hong Kong market.

7. Into a description of the several articles enumerated in the return, I need not enter, as this will be found in the Memorandum forwarded in my Despatch on the coast trade; but distinguishing between these two classes, and taking separately the more important heads of export, I will briefly indicate the points most deserving your Lordship's notice.

8. CLASS I.

Exports, the produce or manufacture of the Island.
These are coal, sago flour, timber, and planks.

9. *Coal.*

The failure of the Labuan mines hitherto is well known, but it could scarcely be shown in a more summary form or more conclusive

manner than in the return of the total annual values of all the coal exported or supplied to shipping during the past twenty-five years.

The highest figure reached was in 1865, when 11,995*l.* worth of coal was exported or shipped.

In 1862 the value was no more than 912*l.* In the four preceding years there was no export at all. The total value of coal exported or supplied to shipping during the whole period was 106,244*l.*

10. *Sago Flour.*

This is an article of Island manufacture. The raw sago is brought from the coast of Borneo, and converted into sago flour in the sago manufactories of the Island, of which there are three, the first having been established in 1860 or 1861. Up to that time the export of sago to Singapore had been of the raw article, but during the last twelve years nearly the whole of this export has been of the refined sago, or, as it is termed, sago flour.

Some portion of the total quantity exported from Labuan is manufactured in Borneo, but the greater part is Island manufacture. For instance, in 1870 the Island share of the manufacture represented 14,162*l.* out of the total of 19,009*l.*; in 1871 it represented 18,088*l.* out of the total of 23,832*l.*; in 1872 it represented 19,908*l.*, out of the total of 26,249*l.*

11. This industry is the most encouraging reality in the past history of the Colony. It will be perceived that it has hitherto contributed more largely to the exports than the other main industry of the Island —the coal mines. The coal, indeed, is the produce of the Island, while the sago manufacturers are dependent for their supplies of the raw material upon another country. But so far as it has gone the industry has been a successful and profitable one, and although it has to compete with the sago manufacture at Brunei, the capital of the producing country, there is, nevertheless, reason to hope that it will not only maintain its present status, but prove a progressive industry.

12. *Timber and Planks.*

Among the articles included under the head of "Miscellaneous," are timber and planks, the produce of the Island. The export of these, however, has been very limited and exceptional. In three years only do I find a return of timber exported:—In 1867, to the value of 216*l.*; in 1869, to the value of 142*l.*; and in 1870, to the value of 77*l.*

13. CLASS II.

Exports, the produce or manufacture of the Coast of Borneo and the surrounding countries.

The principal articles in this class are beeswax, edible birds'-nests, camphor, gutta-percha and india-rubber, pearls, and raw sago.

11. *Beeswax.*

The highest value attained in this export was in 1868, when 609 piculs were exported at a stated official value of 10,909*l.* In no other year has one-half of this value been attained. The nearest

approach was in 1865, when 552 piculs were exported at a stated official value of 4,968*l.*

Again, in 1866, 517 piculs were exported at an official value of 4,653*l.*

It will be perceived that the stated increased value in 1868 was much greater in proportion than the increase in quantity, and it appears that while in 1865 and 1866 the official value of the picul was 9*l.*, it was raised by Mr. De Crespigny in 1868 to 15*l.*, and even to 20*l.*

15. *Edible Birds' nests.*

These are sold by the catty.

There are three qualities of birds'-nests: the white, valued at 45*s.* per catty; the red, valued at 20*s.*; and the black, valued at 4*s.* 2*d.* The highest export value in any one year was 9,200*l.*, in 1866. This article of trade is exported for the China market.

16. *Camphor.*

This also is exported for the China market. The difference between the value of the Borneon camphor and that of the ordinary camphor sent to the European market, mostly from China and Japan, is very considerable. The Borneon camphor fetches 92*s.* 6*d.* per lb., the ordinary camphor only 2*s.* per lb.

Mr. Crawfurd says that "the price of this article depends upon the "fictitious value which the Chinese attach to it, and to its limited "production in nature." But the so-called "fictitious value" is in reality due to certain properties or qualities in which the Borneon camphor is superior to the ordinary kind; the peculiar character of the Borneon camphor being that it retains its chemical properties undiminished for a long period of years.

17. *Gutta-percha and India-rubber.*

Until 1867 gutta-percha alone of these two articles was exported. It would seem there had been no demand for india-rubber, and the price it fetched did not make its collection worth the while. But in 1867, or thereabouts, the article came suddenly into demand, and the price rising rapidly, supplies were immediately forthcoming. In 1868, the second year of its collection, the quantity exported by the Labuan traders was 3,908 piculs, valued at 18,518*l.* Since then the supply has not been maintained at that rate, but last year as many as 2,015 piculs, valued at 14,722*l.*, were exported, and the supply of gutta has throughout been well maintained.

18. *Pearls.*

The greater portion of pearls exported from Labuan consists of seed pearls, which are destined for the markets of China and India. But during the last twelve years large pearls, the produce of the Sooloo Pearl Fishery, have been added to this export. The latter are of the more valuable kind, and are destined for the European and Chinese markets. The largest export of pearls was in the years 1867 and

1868, when the value of the exportation amounted to 10,450*l.* in the former, and 11,554*l.* in the latter year.

18. *Raw Sago.*

This article has already been noticed under the head of sago flour (Class I.). It is obtained from Borneo, and until 1859 or 1860 it was re-exported to Singapore in the raw state in which it was received. Since the establishment of sago manufactories, it is only in a few exceptional years there has been any exportation of the raw material.

19. The minor articles of export, the produce of the neighbouring countries, are bizoor stones (included under the head of "Miscellaneous"), cinnamon, coffee, dammar or resin, hides, mother-o'pearl, pepper, rattans, rattan mats, Sooloo rope, sharks'-fins, tinder, tortoise-shell, and trepang; but it is not, perhaps, necessary that I should lengthen the present Report with a special notice of each of these exports. The return itself will show their annual values.

20. *Total Results.*

In examining the total results, it will be perceived that until the year 1852 no returns were kept of the trade, no returns were kept of imports or exports with the exception of the export of coal; and in the three following years the Brunei exports were improperly included in the Island Returns.

21. It is in 1855 that the real exports from the Colony are for the first time ascertained. The total value was 7,939*l.*

22. In 1856 there was a marked progress, the total reaching 20,080*l.* This was mostly due to the large exportation in that year of raw sago, which added over 8,000*l.* to the return. The coal contributed a further value of 4,796*l.*

23. In 1857 the exports fell back to a value of 7,034*l.*, and no improvement is again visible until 1860, when they reached a value of 12,602*l.*, and at that level they remained during the two following years, 1861 and 1862. In respect of the years 1858 to 1861 it should be noticed that the exports received no contribution from the coal mines, and in respect of the year 1862 the contribution was under 1,000*l.* in value.

24. In 1863 the exports rose to 22,332*l.*; or, deducting specie, to 20,000*l.* (in round numbers), of which 4,000*l.* represented the contribution of coal.

25. In the next year (1864) the improvement was most marked. Exclusive of specie the total value was over 48,000*l.* The coal alone, however, contributed 10,000*l.* to this total; but even excluding this contribution, there would still remain 38,000*l.*, representing the value of the other exports, against 16,000*l.* in the preceding year. In point of fact the export trade of the Colony more than doubled itself in 1864, and this advance was not due to exceptional or temporary causes, for there was no subsequent retrogression.

26. In 1865 the exports advanced still further and reached a total value of 58,536*l.*, the coal contributing 11,995*l.* to this. In 1866 and 1867 they remained at the same level, the coal contribution in the former year being 10,384*l.*, and in the latter year 7,377*l.*

27. In 1868 the exports made another vast stride, reaching, according to the Blue Book Returns, 74,065*l.*, and according to the total shown by the addition of details in the accompany return, 82,279.*

In the exports of beeswax, india-rubber, pearls, and trepang, a higher value was reached than in any preceding year, or than has since been reached.

Coal contributed 5,677*l.*; and the specie exported amounted to 1,458*l.*

28. Whichever total be taken, 74,065*l.* or 82,279*l.*, the year 1868 was the best year of the Labuan trade. It not only attained a higher point than had previously been attained, but a higher point than it has since been able to maintain.

29. Whether the increase exhibited in 1868 was due to exceptional and temporary causes, or whether it is that subsequent causes have operated against the trade, it is perfectly clear that in the four succeeding years it has not only made no further progress, but it has not even held the ground it then reached.

30. The completeness of the returns of 1869, when the exports fell to 57,739*l.*, has been called in question; but in 1870 they were certainly no higher than 61,218*l.*, to which coal contributed 7,544*l.*

31. In 1871 they fell to 52,727*l.*, of which 2,656*l.* was in specie. The coal contribution in this year was no more than 2,057*l.*

32. In 1872 the exports recovered themselves to 69,094, the share contributed by coal being 3,312*l.* In this last year of the period, then, the exports, while they showed a decided improvement over those of 1867, 1869, 1870, or 1871, still fell considerably short of the point reached in 1868.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, (Signed) HENRY BULWER.

&c. &c. &c.

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* I have myself prepared the present return, and am unable to make my addition of details tally with Mr. De Crespigny's figures. In going through the Blue Book Returns of the past twenty years, I have found many mistakes, but with this exception and also one in the Coast Returns of 1861, the mistakes are not sufficient to interfere with the general results.

Enclosure 1.

RETURN of EXPORTS from the ISLAND of LABUAN from 1848 to 1872, showing the articles exported and the value in sterling of the same in each year.

No.	Articles of Export.	Countries to which Exported.	1848 to 1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	No.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1	Beeswax	Almost exclusively to Singapore.	—	542	1,062	843	906	817	178	41	345	2,083	1,087	383	1,384	2,575	4,968	4,653	2,259	10,905	4,480	1,976	1,895	1,177	1
2	Birds'-nests		—	1,936	3,131	397	354	1,105	1,150	1,052	660	756	677	848	1,622	7,961	5,023	9,200	5,897	5,682	7,226	7,046	2,044	7,322	2
3	Camphor		—	1,558	2,145	791	141	500	343	1,187	1,406	1,441	3,197	812	5,168	11,156	3,985	3,280	6,285	3,065	2,380	3,345	2,463	2,291	3
4	Cinnamon		—	—	—	—	297	475	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	280	629	574	249	58	4
5	Coal		7,910	5,448	8,902	7,169	1,399	4,796	1,145	—	—	—	—	912	4,320	10,308	11,995	10,384	7,377	5,677	5,589	7,544	2,057	3,312	5
6	Coffee		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	242	314	232	110	47	—	6
7	Dammar		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	63	161	442	825	1,159	7
8	Gutta-percha		—	51	8	957	211	110	47	—	52	43	239	312	83	400	1,085	2,675	6,650	—	7,383	2,691	1,181	2,231	8
9	India-rubber		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	744	18,518	1,058	5,535	11,171	14,722	9
10	Hides		—	67	130	80	57	80	328	83	310	212	95	115	193	78	492	384	801	797	838	1,365	724	532	10
11	Pearls		—	1,679	929	125	—	137	93	—	47	—	354	—	—	375	312	1,584	10,450	11,554	2,328	5,685	1,084	2,185	11
12	Mother-o'pearl		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	660	156	175	1,404	—	—	665	332	635	2,178	12
13	Pepper		—	233	643	364	574	887	931	210	866	1,405	913	871	420	339	553	477	325	270	132	200	46	94	13
14	Rattans		—	—	—	—	—	—	26	62	290	390	971	2,171	327	665	1,203	2,562	357	1,120	1,295	1,461	362	2,538	14
15	Rattan mats		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	86	—	—	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	15
16	Rope		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	528	270	174	343	594	75	12	16
17	Sago flour		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	572	—	1,289	4,309	3,380	12,250	23,561	16,400	13,557	15,929	18,936	19,009	23,831	26,249	17
18	„ raw		—	2,879	3,404	2,182	2,403	8,170	1,214	906	750	4,270	4,710	1,715	927	—	787	—	—	500	—	—	—	—	18
19	Sharks'-fins		—	20	—	—	7	23	14	3	17	1,214	45	20	40	30	124	122	96	468	225	124	203	373	19
20	Tinder		—	—	—	—	—	—	406	1,250	138	—	—	—	—	—	—	78	—	39	169	—	—	141	20
21	Tortoiseshell		—	466	53	41	—	—	375	—	93	104	—	5	475	400	550	750	982	519	306	532	542	1,423	21
22	Trepang		—	127	31	—	66	254	184	20	35	—	131	516	830	880	2,208	1,728	928	3,392	1,844	526	374	500	22
23	Specie		—	1,152	1,677	2,041	1,145	1,562	520	—	870	—	—	—	2,500	83	—	—	—	1,458	1,251	1,070	2,656	—	23
24	Miscellaneous		—	399	213	385	374	1,156	23	163	99	702	814	93	—	544	1,500	2,078	754	1,555	258	1,024	252	585	24
	Totals (by addition of details)*	£	7,910	16,557	22,328	15,375	7,934	20,072	7,027	5,064	6,550	12,620	14,522	13,115	22,329	48,200	58,521	58,287	57,974	82,279	57,728	61,201	52,716	69,082	
	Totals (as given in 'Blue Books' †	£	7,910	16,564	22,333	15,382	7,939	20,080	7,034	5,069	6,358	12,602	14,693	13,122	22,332	48,202	58,536	58,290	57,976	74,065	57,739	61,218	52,727	69,094	

* In 1852, 1853, and 1854, exports from Brunei to Singapore were erroneously included in the Blue Book returns of the Colony.

† In the above details shillings and pence are omitted. This omission will in most cases account for the difference between the totals by addition and the totals given in the Blue Books. In the case of the large difference shown in the totals under the year 1868, the compiler of the present return has been wholly unable to make the total figures obtained by addition tally with or approach the 'Blue Book' total.

Governor BULWER to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Labuan,
December 23, 1873.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1872.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue received during the year amounted to 7,079*l.* The expenditure was 7,518*l.*

The following figures show the amounts of revenue and expenditure for the four years during which the Colony has been called upon to defray its own expenses, without the aid of a Parliamentary Grant:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1869	5,528	6,396
1870	7,158	7,301
1871	7,115	8,226
1872	7,079	7,518

The expenditure has thus exceeded the revenue in each of these years.

In respect of the years 1871 and 1872 the revenue was deprived of the amount of rental due by the Oriental Coal Company, who were unable, in consequence of the unfortunate mismanagement of their enterprise, to meet their obligations to the Crown.

The rental, the first payment of which was to have been made in 1871, is one of 1,000*l.* per annum, subject, however, to a deduction of sixpence per ton for all coal supplied to Her Majesty's ships; and the revenues of the two years above-named should properly have been increased by the portion of the rental remaining due in respect of them.

On the other hand, the actual expenditure, as your Lordship is aware, does not fully represent the requirements of the Colony or the Public Service, but is kept down to suit the limited revenue, to the lowest possible figure consistent with the actual engagements entered into on the part of the Colony.

Out of the total expenditure of 7,518*l.* in 1872, 6,269*l.* went in the payment of salaries and pensions, and as the expenses of police and gaols (exclusive of establishments) amounted to 882*l.*, no more than 368*l.* are left to represent the expenditure on all other services and necessities of the Colony.

Resources of Colony.—Coal Mines.

Now that the Colony is left entirely to its own resources, and receives no assistance whatsoever from the Imperial Government,

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either in the shape of a grant in aid, or in that of military protection,* the successful development of the coal mines of the Island has become more than ever a matter of the utmost importance to the Colony.

For five and twenty years the story of the Labuan mines has been one of continuous and unqualified failure.

I recently forwarded to your Lordship a return which, among other details, exhibited the total annual values of coal supplied to shipping or otherwise exported from the Island during the whole period of years referred to; and as these figures are themselves, perhaps, the most concise and the most forcible illustration that could be given of the results of the several enterprises in the Labuan mines, they are here subjoined:—

Year.	Total Value of Coal Shipped or otherwise Exported from Island.	Year.	Total Value of Coal Shipped or otherwise Exported from Island.
	£		£
1848	600	1861	—
1849	1,600	1862	912
1850	678	1863	4,320
1851	5,032	1864	10,308
1852	5,448	1865	11,995
1853	8,902	1866	10,384
1854	7,169	1867	7,377
1855	1,399	1868	5,677
1856	4,796	1869	5,589
1857	1,145	1870	7,544
1858	—	1871	2,057
1859	—	1872	3,312
1860	—		

For five and twenty years these unfortunate Labuan mines have passed from company to company, from the control of one board of directors to that of another, from one management to another management, always with the same pretensions and promises at the outset, and always with the same failure in the end, till their very name has become a bye-word, and they have acquired that discredit which belongs to unsuccessful pretensions.

But, though the fact of failure is well known, the causes that have led to it have not been equally well understood, and the discredit that has become attached to the coal resources of this Island I have no hesitation in saying is most unmerited.

I have touched upon this subject in several despatches and in my last Report.† Accompanying the Blue Book of the Colony I ventured to express the opinion at which, after a very careful inquiry into the past transactions at the mines, and with the aid of those competent to give a professional opinion, I had arrived as to the real causes of failure.

The fault most assuredly has not lain in the extent of the coal

* The garrison was withdrawn by the Imperial Government in 1871, and the Colony called upon to substitute for it a local armed police force. The establishment of this force has necessarily increased considerably the police expenditure.

† Papers relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions, Part II. (2nd division), 1873, Paper No. 13 of series.

resources of the Island, nor does it appear that any exceptional difficulty has been hitherto experienced in their working, saving always the disadvantage attending the conduct of an undertaking at such a distance from its directors, and from those sources which supply machinery, and other materials required for mining purposes.

In truth, it is not the mines that have failed the companies, but rather the companies that have failed the mines, which have never yet had a fair trial given to them. The companies must themselves bear the responsibility of their failures. They all sacrificed their permanent interests for some temporary advantage which also was rather an apparent than a real advantage. The desire of obtaining *immediate* returns of some sort with as little delay as possible appears to have outweighed every other consideration with them. The deep coal was neglected, simply because to win it required time and a large outlay, counterbalanced by no present return, and the energies of manager after manager, and the resources of company after company were wasted and frittered away in surface workings and temporary sources of supply, which yielded, indeed, immediate returns,—inconsiderable at the best of times though these were — but which, being temporary sources, soon became exhausted, even when they were not abruptly brought to a close, as it frequently happened, by some mining error or by some ordinary accident to remedy which proper means were not forthcoming at the time.

Thus disappointment succeeded disappointment, and even when recourse was had, now and again, to a sounder system of operations, and an attempt was made to reach the deep coal, it was generally made at too late a period in the enterprise, and when the resources of the company for the time being were no longer able to support the outlay, or to wait the time that a due prosecution of the work required.

This I believe to have been in the main the real cause of the failures of the Eastern Archipelago Company, of the Labuan Coal Company, and of the China Steam-Ship and Labuan Company.

The present company, known as the "Oriental Coal Company," though including among their shareholders, if not among their directors, some of those who had been shareholders and losers in the previous enterprises, nevertheless appear at first to have profited not at all by the experience of the past.

The position to which they succeeded in May, 1868, was in many respects a most advantageous and favourable one, but they failed to turn it to proper account. Following with too faithful fidelity the practices of former companies, they also neglected to win the deep coal, and appear to have contented themselves with outputting what supplies they could obtain from the temporary sources which they had found available on entering upon occupation of the mines. The consequence was that when, after three years' occupation, they were called upon in June, 1871, to pay their rental to the Crown, which then for the first time became due, small as that rental was (1,000*l.* per annum) they were unable to meet this engagement to the Crown, and were forced to apply for three years' further grace in order to

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develop the more permanent resources of the mines, which they ought to have developed during the three preceding years.

Their affairs had certainly lapsed into a condition far from satisfactory. The work of winning the deep coal was still before them, and the temporary resources upon which they had been relying were in some instances closed, and in others either unavailable or greatly diminished in extent.

In 1869 and 1870 their exports of coal had been only 5,589*l.* in the former, and 7,544*l.* in the latter year; but in 1871 they fell as low as 2,057*l.* In 1872 the export was no more than 3,312*l.*, and in the course of this last-named year the manager, in order to obtain a supply, was actually obliged to open out some old abandoned workings of former companies.

It is but justice to the directors to say that in the course of 1871 they fairly set to work to save their enterprise.

They had decided upon proceeding with a deep shaft which had been commenced in 1866 by Mr. Sinclair, the manager for the China Steam-Ship and Labuan Coal Company, with the view of reaching the eleven-foot seam (No. 4 seam) at an estimated depth of 100 fathoms. Mr. Sinclair had sunk this shaft to a depth of 35 fathoms, when in the early part of 1867 he was obliged, in consequence of the want of means, to abandon the further prosecution of the work, the failure of his Company taking place in the following year.

On the 5th of January, 1872, Mr. Gray, the present manager for the Oriental Coal Company, who had arrived in June, 1871, renewed the sinking of this shaft from the 35 fathom depth where it had been left by Mr. Sinclair in 1867. The further sinking was successfully prosecuted to a depth of 59 fathoms, reached on the 18th June, 1872, when a feeder of water was tapped which the winding-engine at work was incapable of subduing. It became necessary to substitute the pumping-engine, and as some time was required to make the foundation for this and to place it in position, it was not till the 19th November that the sinking of the shaft was renewed. The work was repeatedly interrupted by accidents happening to the machinery and gear, and at the close of the year to which this Report relates the total depth reached was no more than 61 fathoms.

This is the main work in which the Company are now engaged, and upon its successful prosecution the fortune of the present enterprize may be said to depend. The work proceeds slowly, and some months must elapse, even from the date of the present Report, before the eleven-foot seam can be won.

The faults of the past, to which I have referred, may in a certain sense be said to afford the best ground of promise for the future; because, were the failures of five and twenty years attributable to causes connected with or dependent on the mines themselves and the nature or extent of their resources, there might be but slender reasons for an expectation of future success; but being attributable to the faults of direction and management, there is no reason to doubt that, those faults once corrected and a proper system of mining resorted to and strictly persevered in, the Labuan mines will yet attain the success to which their position and abundant resources entitle them.

Trade.

The trade of the Island is almost exclusively conducted with Singapore on the one hand, and with the coast of Borneo on the other, the Island serving, it may be said, as a trading station for the exchange of British, European, and Chinese goods with the produce of the coast of Borneo and neighbourhood.

The export trade *proper* of the Island consists (1st) of coal, timber, and planks, the produce of the Island; (2ndly) of sago, the produce of the coast of Borneo, brought thence in its raw state, and converted into sago flour in the Island manufactories; (3rdly) of the produce of the coast of Borneo, and neighbouring seas, obtained by the Labuan traders, and by them exported, in the state in which it is received from the coast, to the Singapore market. The principal articles of this last class are beeswax, edible birds'-nests, camphor, gutta-percha, india-rubber, pearls, raw sago, and sago flour. The minor articles, or articles of minor importance in respect of the quantities exported or of their values, are bezoar stones, cinnamon, coffee, dammar or resin, hides, mother-o'pearl, pepper, rattans, rattan mats, sharks' fins, tinder, tortoiseshell, and trepang.

The import trade *proper* of the Island consists (1st) of such produce of the coast as is imported for local use and consumption; (2ndly) of imports from Singapore, intended to be retained for local use and consumption; (3rdly) of imports from Singapore, intended for re-exportation to the coast in exchange for coast produce.

The following are the official returns of the values of imports and exports during the ten years ended 31st December, 1872 :—

IMPORTS.

Year.	Column 1. From Singapore, &c.*	Column 2. From Coast of Borneo, &c.	Year.	Column 1. From Singapore, &c.*	Column 2. From Coast of Borneo, &c.
	£	£		£	£
1863	45,580	25,784	1868	149,629	80,096
1864	44,602	39,446	1869†	53,048	48,435
1865	66,761	37,428	1870	67,565	55,417
1866	58,360	50,773	1871	67,788	66,234
1867	62,135	65,408	1872	63,287	65,911

EXPORTS.

Year.	Column 1. To Singapore, &c.*	Column 2. Re-exportations to Coast.	Year.	Column 1. To Singapore, &c.*	Column 2. Re-exportations to Coast.
	£	£		£	£
1863	22,332	—	1868	74,065	129,737
1864	48,202	—	1869†	57,739	—
1865	58,536	—	1870	61,218	—
1866	57,290	1,000‡	1871	52,727	66,234
1867	57,976	50,000	1872	69,094	65,911

* The returns are made under the head of imports to, and exports from, Singapore, as nearly all the transactions are with that port, but occasionally a cargo is received from or sent to Hong Kong, Amoy, &c. The values of these occasional transactions are all included in the columns 1 of the two Tables, and the value of all coal exported or supplied to shipping is likewise included in column 1, Table II.

† The returns for 1869 are stated to have been incomplete.

‡ See note on p. 150.

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In respect to the above returns, it is necessary to notice that among the imports from the coast of Borneo, &c., given in column 2, Table No. I., are included those imports of coast produce afterwards exported to Singapore, and which consequently appear again included among the exports to Singapore in Table II., column 1. With regard to column 2, Table II., no account, it would seem, has ever been kept of exportations or, as they may more properly be termed, re-exportations to the coast.*

The first Return purporting to represent the value of re-exportations to the coast appears in the Blue Book of 1867, where a round sum of 50,000*l.* was assigned as the probable value of such re-exportations. In the Blue Book of 1868 a lump sum of 129,787*l.* was assigned on the same account, calculated on the supposition that seven-eighths of the imports from Singapore had been re-exported to the coast. The value, however, of produce received from the coast in that year, and for which the re-exportations would be in exchange, was 80,096*l.* only. The practice of making an allowance on account of these re-exportations which was introduced into the Blue Books of 1867 and 1868, does not appear to have been continued in the Blue Books of 1869 and 1870, but it was renewed in those of 1871 and 1872, when an amount was assigned corresponding in each year with the value of coast produce received, and for which the re-exportations would be in exchange. The real extent of the trade of the Colony is best shown by the values of imports from and exports to Singapore given in the first columns of Tables I. and II.; the column of imports from Singapore covering the value of goods re-exported to the coast, and the column of exports to Singapore covering the value of produce received from the coast, excepting such portion as may be retained for use and consumption in the Island.

Shipping.

The trade of the Colony with Singapore during the year was carried in two sailing-barges, one of which carried also the trade between the port of Brunei (Borneo proper) and Singapore. In October a steamer took the place of the two sailing ships, and has since carried the trade both of Labuan and Brunei to and from Singapore. The number of merchant ships entered during the year was 26, with an aggregate registered tonnage of 7,708 tons. Of these, 18 were British, with a total of 6,147 tons, and 8 foreign, with a total of 1,561 tons.

The number of merchant ships cleared was 26, with an aggregate tonnage of 7,808 tons, of which 18, with a total of 6,247 tons, were British, and 8, with a total of 1,561 tons, were foreign.

Sixteen ships entered with cargoes, and 10 in ballast; 20 ships cleared with cargoes, and 6 in ballast. Some were passing steamers, calling only for coal. The coast trade for the year was carried in 1,082 prahus or boats.

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* A single exception occurs in the 1866 returns, where an item of 1,000*l.* was entered as value of eight boxes of opium forwarded to Salero. Why this particular item of re-exportation should have been entered, and no other, is not explained, and it was probably accidental.

General Remarks.

The year was marked throughout with depression. The operations at the coal mines being in a preliminary stage, and but a scanty output of coal being obtainable from the temporary sources of supply still remaining, there was little demand for labour at the Company's works, and the number of hands employed was consequently much reduced. The withdrawal of the military garrison, which took place in the preceding year, was also soon recognized as a material loss. Many persons were thereby deprived of employment, and as the garrison had been maintained at the Imperial expense, the loss of the money hitherto annually introduced on that account and circulated in the Island, though a loss that would doubtless be scarcely appreciable in a large and prosperous colony, very sensibly affected the interests of this small and poor community.

Towards the close of the year an epidemic of smallpox broke out at the capital of Borneo proper, distant about 30 miles from the Island, and subsequently spread to the coast more immediately adjacent to the Island. Vigorous measures were adopted to prevent the introduction of the disorder into the Colony or the spread therein, and although owing to the near proximity of infected districts complete immunity could not be preserved, and from time to time cases of smallpox occurred, yet by a system of isolation, and by other sanitary precautions, the disorder was in every instance checked and stamped out.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY BULWER.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

VICTORIA.

No. 15.

Governor Sir G. F. BOWEN, G.C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government Offices, Melbourne,
May 7, 1874.

MY LORD,

1. I HAVE the honour to report that I have recently made an official tour through Gippsland (so named after Sir George Gipps, a former Governor), which Province, owing to its mountains and picturesque character, may be described as the Wales, or Highlands, of Victoria. It has hitherto been comparatively little visited; and I am the first Governor who has ridden through it and crossed its highest ranges. But its fine scenery will soon become known; and its manifold resources will be rapidly developed, now that the Colonial Parliament has provided for the construction of a railway from Melbourne to Sale, the chief town of Gippsland.

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2. I was accompanied throughout my tour by the Minister for Public Lands and Agriculture (the Honourable J. J. Casey), by the Surveyor-General (Mr. Skene), and by the Secretary for Mines (Mr. Brough Smyth).

I now forward copies of the valuable "Report on the Physical "Character and Resources of Gippsland," prepared by the two last-named gentlemen; also of a more popular account of my tour, drawn up by another member of our party. I request that copies of each of these documents may be transmitted to the Royal Geographical and Geological Societies of London.

3. The accompanying Report will be found to be full and exhaustive. It shows the rich and varied resources which Gippsland possesses in its agricultural and pastoral land, in the timber of its forests, and in its minerals, which comprise gold, silver, tin, copper, lead, antimony, coal, &c.

4. Annexed to the Report is a map of the eastern portion of the Colony of Victoria, with my route marked upon it.*

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Carnarvon, (Signed) G. F. BOWEN.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the PHYSICAL CHARACTER and RESOURCES of GIPPSLAND, by the SURVEYOR-GENERAL and the SECRETARY for MINES.

SIR, Melbourne, February 10, 1874.

In obedience to your instructions we submit the results of the observations made by us when we had the honour to accompany his Excellency Sir George Bowen, the Governor of the Colony, and yourself in your tour through Gippsland. In order to a proper understanding of the statements which follow, it is necessary to give a brief description of this part of the Colony.

Gippsland extends from longitude 145° 50′ on the west to longitude 150° on the east. It is bounded on the west by the eastern boundaries of the counties of Evelyn and Mornington; on the north and north-west by the Great Dividing Range; on the north-east by a line from Forest Hill to Cape Howe, dividing Victoria from New South Wales; and on the south-east and south by the sea.

The area of the tract is 13,898 square miles, or 8,894,720 acres. It may be regarded as bounded on the north-west and west by the Cordillera, and on the south-east by the sea.

Its extreme length from west to east is 250 miles, and its mean breadth about 80 miles.

Excepting the La Trobe, which runs from west to east, all the great rivers have excavated deep valleys at right-angles to the coast-line. These rivers have their sources in mountains and plateaux, which, over the greater part, are covered with snow during nine months in the year; their tributaries are perennial streams, flowing over beds of pebbles, boulders, and bars of hard rock, resembling the trout

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* Not lithographed.

streams of Scotland. Owing to the direction of the great valleys being at right-angles to the coast-line, the climate, even on the sea-coast, is generally cool and agreeable; and the moisture-laden winds, which have uninterrupted course along the valleys, are cast upwards into colder air when they encounter the Dividing Range, and there precipitation is constant. Even in the height of summer, snow lies for weeks in the deep recesses of the mountains, and when it is melted the bright green of the sub-alpine flora marks the sites it has occupied. Chains of hills and spurs, offshoots of the great range, border the valleys, the culminating points of some of which attain a height of 5,300 feet. The highest indicates, however, only the altitude of the great plain, for the most part covered with newer volcanic rocks overlying tertiary gravels, which once extended from Mount Useful on the west to the Snowy River on the east. The rivers fed by the snow and the rains have broken up this once great plateau; they have cut deeply into the hard rocks; they have carried downwards towards and into the sea vast quantities of sand, mud, and slime, and the evidences of their work are found in the low level tracts of tertiary sands and clays which extend from the Moe Swamp on the west to Ram Head on the east. Work similar to that which they have done can be seen in any wayside torrent. But because of the grandeur of the sculpture in the mountain ranges, the mind is slow to recognize them as the agents. The mind, untaught by experience, would seek rather in unknown plutonic forces the agents which reared the lofty peaks and ranges that appear as irregular as the waves of the ocean in a storm when beheld from a great height.

The loftiest mountain height is, however, no more than a measure of the extent of the denudation to which the plateau has been subjected within the tertiary period.

The spurs from the great ranges east of the southern extension of the Cordillera disappear as we approach the coast. There are no hills of any considerable height within 10 to 15 miles of it.

Bordering the Ninety-mile Beach there are large lakes in an extensive area of flat country. It is probable that at one time, and when the land had not the same configuration as now, each lake had its separate outlet to the sea. At the present time Lake Wellington, Lake Victoria, and Lake King, which may be regarded rather as the expansion of rivers than true lakes, discharge their surplus waters at a point 50 miles east of Lake Wellington. Between the lakes and the sea there is a tract of sandy country, varying in breadth from a few hundred yards to 1 mile, the sea-margin of which shifts with the winds. At the entrance to the sea this tract narrows to a single line of sand-dunes, not more than 200 yards wide, and across the entrance there is a shifting bar.* Along this coast, in great floods, sufficient

* As might be expected, the lakes are shallower than the larger rivers which run into them.

When the bar at the entrance is closed—and it is sometimes closed during heavy easterly gales—the water rises to a great height in the lakes, and the country for a distance of 100 miles back is flooded. It was the custom of the settlers to cut through the bank when the flood had attained its maximum height, and the rush of waters very quickly cleared a channel, through which even large vessels could sail in.—*Report of the late Mr. Dawson, 1st February*, 1855.

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to overcome the stress of the storm-beaten sea, new mouths are opened, if not in the lakes, certainly in the rivers. The Snowy River has shifted its mouth many times. In periods of flood it has again and again sought its old, direct, and natural course to the sea; but, during the prevalence of south-westerly weather, there are heaped up sand and weed against the natural mouth, and finally it disembogues some 7 miles from its proper outlet. It too has a bar of sand at its mouth. The prevailing winds have a tendency to shift the mouths of all the streams towards the east.

The great height above the sea of a considerable portion of Gippsland, the relatively large proportion of water to land-surface, the form and direction of the great valleys, and the dense foliage that clothes the upland slopes, temper the heats of summer, and indirectly by their agency confer fertility on soils that in other parts of Victoria would be regarded as scarcely suitable for cultivation.

The great ranges on the north-west are not the only barriers which separate Gippsland from the remainder of the Colony. The way by sea is uncertain, and in bad weather insecure, because of the difficulty of effecting an entrance into the lakes; and the track from Melbourne towards Sale is almost impracticable in winter. Where the track crosses a patch of older volcanic rock a little to the east of the Buneep the soils are deep, and in wet weather almost prevent the passage of wheeled vehicles. The spot is well known as the "Glue-pot."

And on entering Gippsland, if the traveller should seek to explore the carbonaceous tract extending towards Corner Inlet, or the summits of the ranges bordering the principal rivers, he would find his course stopped by scrubs and thickets so dense that only a well-equipped party would be able to advance a mile or two in the day.

Gippsland, indeed, since the foundation of the Colony, though in area nearly one-ninth of Victoria, has been practically cut off from regular and ready communication with the capital and with other parts of the Province; the character of its soils has not been made known, its resources have been hidden, its climate has been but imperfectly investigated; and the settler has been debarred from entering it because of the difficulties of the road and his want of knowledge of its adaptation for culture.

For a long period after the first entry of settlers into Gippsland—which took place in 1838—the only practicable route for stock was south-westwards from New South Wales.* The lofty ranges of the

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* Andrew Hutton, a man well known in Gippsland, travelled in 1838 from Nangutta on the Genoa River to the entrance to the lakes with 500 head of cattle and five men. They travelled along the coast, crossing the mouth of the Snowy River. They stayed at the entrance about a week, the natives hunting the party all the time, and finally driving them away and killing the cattle.

Some two years after McMillan came in from Omeo and Count Strzelecki came down on McMillan's tracks.

Wilkinson took up Buchan with 100 head of cattle immediately before McMillan came down. About the same time McIntyre took up Gelantipy, also before McMillan arrived.

When Hutton was hunted away from the entrance, at the time of his first arrival, he found the wreck of the schooner 'Shaw,' trading from Sydney to Hobart Town. He buried either four or five of the sailors. This was near the Wingan River.—*From information furnished to Alfred W. Howitt, Esq., P.M., by Andrew Hutton, 17th February*, 1874.

Cordillera were not attempted by explorers for many years, and the now well-known track from Melbourne to Sale was opened only after many unsuccessful trials. Even at the present time this immense and fertile track is usually approached only by three routes—that from Melbourne to Sale, that from Maneroo in New South Wales, and that from Omeo to Bairnsdale.

All the country to the north and west of Melbourne has been explored; it is easy to reach any part by coach or rail; and from the official records in the offices of the Public Departments one can readily gather information relative to the rocks, soils, and mineral resources; but Gippsland has been cut off from communication with the seat of Government, and comparatively little has been published respecting its pastures, its mines, or its forests.

Mr. Alfred Howitt, in 1859–60, when he was the leader of a prospecting party in search of new goldfields, communicated, in exhaustive Reports, very many interesting facts respecting the physical geography and geology of the midland parts of Gippsland; but his labours were confined to an examination of the auriferous tracts in the basins of the Mitchell and the Dargo. Very little has been published descriptive of those large areas where it is probable settlers will select land; and the facts we have collected will be interesting to many who are desirous of finding homes in a part of the Colony where the heats of summer are tempered by the cold air of the mountains.

It is much to be regretted that so little is known of the meteorology of Gippsland. A few observations have been made at one or more of the points on the coast, but no information is obtainable respecting the climate of that part of Gippsland bordering on the Great Dividing Range. In that area there are rich soils, much of the land is well grassed, and the enclosures which we saw under cultivation presented the most favourable aspects; and it is not creditable to the Colony that vague and probably incorrect statements respecting the fall of rain, the temperature, and the occurrence of snow storms cannot be met by an appeal to accurate records of the weather.

It is our duty to recommend that no time be lost in instituting a series of meteorological observations in Gippsland. Able and willing observers can be found in all the towns and settlements: and, with a little zeal at the seat of Government, the work would proceed rapidly, and many of the representations which might deter settlers from occupying the higher lands, would, we are convinced, be proved to be untrustworthy or exaggerated.

The route pursued by us may be thus briefly sketched:—

We left Melbourne at 8 A.M. on Thursday, the 29th January, and passing through Oakleigh, Dandenong, Berwick, Pakenham, and Buneep, arrived at Shady Creek on the evening of the same day.

At 6 A.M. on the 30th January we started from Shady Creek on our way to Sale, following the main road and visiting Westbury, Morwell, Traralgon, and Rosedale.

Throughout this part of the journey the scenery was in general tame and rather uninteresting. From Traralgon, however, we had a view of the Baw-baw Range, which is indeed a splendid feature in

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the landscape. It was not more than 28 miles from us, but the smoke of bush-fires and the state of the atmosphere gave it the appearance of being far more distant, and consequently to our view, from the station we occupied, loftier than it is. Its height has not been measured, but we should suppose it is not less than 4,500 feet above the level of the sea.

We reached Sale at 6 P.M. on the same day.

During Saturday, the 31st January, we examined some of the more interesting features in the vicinity of Sale; and at 6.30 A.M. on Sunday the 1st February we went on board the steamship 'Avon,' which conveyed us to Bairnsdale. On our way we called at the Aboriginal Station on the River Avon, where we saw eighty-five natives.

These are under the care of the Board for the Protection of Aborigines, and their healthy and cheerful appearance, their cleanliness, and the condition of the station as a whole, which, with its pretty flower and fruit gardens, is an oasis in this otherwise unoccupied district, made a favourable impression on all the visitors. The Superintendent was very active in pointing out the improvements which had been made; and we are convinced that the Board has in Mr. Hagenauer a most valuable officer. The education of the natives is carefully watched by him; his assistants, we are sure, are earnest in their efforts to improve and elevate the young, and to lead them in right paths; and what we saw of the results of the children's skill in various employments leads us to hope that ere long such establishments as this at Lake Wellington will not be required. The natives as they grow up will be employed by the whites, and they will carry to new situations the discipline and self-control which such unselfish labourers as Mr. Hagenauer are endeavouring to inculcate. We were much pleased with the general appearance of this well-conducted establishment.

At 4 o'clock we arrived at Eagle Point, where we stopped for a few minutes in order to get a view of the mountains on the north.

Bairnsdale was reached at 5.30 P.M.

We spent the greater part of Monday the 2nd February in examining the country around Bairnsdale. It is flat, but not uninteresting, as there are here some geological formations of the same character as those which occur near Melbourne and at Geelong.

Here, and at every other place at which we stopped, we sought information from the Government officials and the local authorities respecting the character and capabilities of the country.

Having made all necessary arrangements for our ride over the mountains, we left Bairnsdale at 3 o'clock on the 2nd February, and arrived at Tambo at 6 P.M.

Our horses were in good condition, and we determined to make rather long journeys, in order that engagements entered into before we left Melbourne might be fulfilled.

We started from Tambo at 7 A.M., and passing through a district rich in soils and vegetation, reached Noeyang at 11.45 A.M. Some parts of the country from Noeyang to Ensay are all that a settler

could desire, and much of it presents the appearance of being auriferous.

We arrived at Ensay at 6 P.M. on the 3rd February, and left at 7.30 A.M. on the 4th February, reaching Bindi on the same day at 1 o'clock P.M. At this point the party divided—two following the course of the Tambo for the purpose of making geological observations—and the rest taking the ordinary track to Omeo Station.

We arrived at Omeo Station at 7 P.M. on the 4th February, and left at 6 A.M. on the 5th February, reaching the township of Omeo at 10.45 A.M. We inspected some of the gold-workings in this highly interesting locality, and received much valuable information from the President of the Shire Council, the Secretary of the shire, and others, respecting the methods of mining for gold as practised at Omeo. We remained for a short time at the Dry Hill claim, for the purpose of seeing mining operations as there conducted by the proprietor, Mr. Fitzgerald.

All the way from Omeo to the Victoria River (Parslow's Inn) the country is very interesting, and in many parts beautiful. The rocks, the trees, and the grasses, the contour of the lands, and the sharp contrasts as we passed from the creek-eaten hills, with their steep slopes, to the smoother unwatered tracts above, served to engage attention as we rode from point to point, measuring on the map as we went the miles of our progress.

Parslow's Inn is situated on the banks of the Victoria River. We arrived there at 7 P.M. The weather was charming, and it was delightful to feel the cool breeze that met us at this altitude after the fierce heat of the day, and to carry with us as we rode the scent of clover, and of flowering shrubs that here make the air heavy at times.

At 4 o'clock A.M. on the 6th, the sky above was clear, the stars were bright and scintillating, but all around on every side there was a mist, and along the river a thick white shifting fog. Over a small waterfall, a short distance above the inn, the white fog rose as the smoke of a fire, straight upwards, and continued thus even after sunrise. When the white fog was driven away from the river this smoke-like spire was seen high above the waterfall. The frost during the night had been intense. The ground and the roof of the house were white, and we enjoyed at this early hour the crackling of logs and boughs on the fire in our breakfast room.

Owing to the fog there was some delay in finding and bringing the horses to the house, but we were in the saddle by 6 A.M.

During the previous evening we obtained information from Mr. Parslow respecting the several routes over the mountains, and the facts we elicited left us in doubt as to the possibility of traversing 50 miles over such country as he described without the necessity of camping out. Our intention to pass over Mount Feathertop was fixed, and all suggestions respecting the advantages of a more easy descent by way of Harrietville were put aside. We considered well all that we learnt, and we finally determined to attempt the journey as we had previously mapped it out.

We made a very early start from Parslow's Inn, and those in

advance arrived at a small plain—known as the Flour-bag—at 8 A.M. From Parslow's to the Flour-bag there were some rough hills to ascend, but on the whole the journey was enjoyed by all. We dismounted and rested on the plain for a short time, in the belief that the members of the party behind would soon join us, but in this we were disappointed. One of the pack-horses—a horse that had carried his Excellency to Parslow's, and disdained any meaner employment—had bucked so viciously as to scatter the contents of his pack on the road, and we had to wait some time until the whole of the party was brought into order. We left Flour-bag Plain as soon as possible—sending the pack-horses in front—and we now really commenced the most difficult work that had yet presented itself. The "pinches" so called are very steep—and some of the heavy horsemen were unable to decide whether the inconveniences of the ascent or the descent were most annoying. In some places the track was strewn with loose fragments of rocks, it zig-zagged through masses of tangled scrub, and seemed now and again to be lost altogether, and to descend towards a point 1,000 feet or more below. But willing horses and patient riders are not deterred by such difficulties. Good progress was made. At every point where it was possible to proceed rapidly, we put our horses to their mettle; and in a short time we left the steep rocks and the crooked gums behind us, and found a sideling road winding around the mountains, on the higher side of which there grow shrubs and flowers, and on the lower side steeps whose bases the eye could not penetrate—so far were they below us.

As we made the ascent towards Mount Hotham, our attention was attracted at first by the rocks and the vegetation. We glanced now and again at the near and distant heights only to return to the examination of the strata, which are here well exposed by a sideling cutting along the slopes of the range.

The track beyond, which appeared in the distance as a yellow streak on the side of the mountain, was far above us, and we could only conjecture by what route it was to be reached. One after another of our fellow-travellers called out the names of well-known peaks as they appeared in view, and we made hurried guesses respecting the depth and trend of the ravines whose lower parts were lost to sight. On the right appeared a mountain rich in bossy sculptures that attracted all eyes. It glowed in the sun with all the brightness of the emerald, and over it—as it seemed like waves—flashed ever and anon pale tints of carmine and purple. In hollows on its flanks lay in patches herbage of a vivid green, showing where the snow had just disappeared, cradles of young glaciers that can never mature. The high Bogong plains, separated from us by deep chasms and wide valleys, out of which arose solitary peaks and broken ridges, seemed, as we gazed on them, to be sleeping; the slopes were scored, but not deeply, the even line of the plain was not broken, and the light of the sun fell on them softly, not making deep shadows and showing sharp contrasts as in those parts where the denuding forces had worked fantastic hollows and carved long straight lines for the discharge of melted snows.

The Bogong plains were sleeping in the thin folds of pearl-grey

and pale-purple mists that encompassed them; and these mists hid from us Mount Kosciusko, Forest Hill, the Pilot, and the lofty ranges lying to the eastward. Towards the south, Tabletop, with his capping of volcanic rock, stood in the centre of an amphitheatre, and Mount St. Bernard and the Twins showed their peaks on the west. Rising to a greater height we beheld, on the north and north-east, all the lofty eminences whose springs feed the Murray, and we stopped here satisfied that nature could afford no grander spectacle. We took note of the character of the slopes, in many places precipitous, and falling in an even line 3,000 feet into the stream-beds below. We observed the limits where the timber ceases to grow and where the shrubs give place to the snow-grasses. We examined through a field-glass the slopes on the mountains surronding Tabletop, where appeared to the naked eye huge land-slips. These were volcanic cappings that had slid down the mountain, and, black and bare, they contrasted the rich colours of the adjacent parts unpleasantly. They reminded one of the works of man, which are rarely so guided as to add to the beauties of Nature.

We soon left the track and began to ascend a rounded smooth height, where beneath our feet there were small detached pieces of hard sandstone and slate, with snow-grasses growing up between. Before us appeared a small cairn or pyramid of stones—we reached it and knew it to be the summit of Mount Hotham. From this height even those familiar with the country expressed astonishment at the grandeur of the spectacle. The magnificent mountains, whose crests seemed to lift themselves as we ascended, appeared from this point, tier upon tier, far into the blue distance. The deep gorges, almost lost in haze, as we gazed downwards, showed, through the haze, something of their gloomy recesses. Then came the thought that no mighty convulsions raised these monuments; and the mind pained itself in contemplating the vast periods of time through which the aqueous agencies, the rain and the snow and the streams, had been at work in excavating the deep hollows, and carving the buttresses of the great hills. Yonder tiny rivulet, having its source in a spot which is usually white with snow, has cut that deep gorge, the spring at this point has worked a huge channel, and the running streams far below have broken through great masses of rock and shaped the mountains in the forms we see them.

The once vast plateau, which, during a late geological period, was slowly upraised from the sea to a height exceeding the altitude of any of the existing peaks, has not been violently torn by plutonic forces, but has yielded gradually to the influences of the weather, and has been slowly broken up by the rains and the brooks.

The narrow ridge extending from Mount Hotham to the western spur of Mount Feathertop was easily traversed by our well-conditioned horses; the day was bright, the ground was dry, and we did not hesitate to proceed even briskly in places that in bad weather a timid horseman would not venture to approach. This ridge, indeed, is quite narrow enough and dangerous enough to try the nerves of even experienced travellers. In ascending it we were astonished at the effects of denudation in one place. A small peak in front of us,

over the eastern slope of which we passed, presented on the western side what might be called a fracture—a fracture as sharp and as jagged as that of a piece of broken porcelain. We passed over these lofty mountains in good weather—the sun was shining, and the snows that had lately covered the gulches had disappeared. In bad weather, in mist and rain, it is a dangerous pass. We have heard from many of the perils of the ascent. The sleet and hail sometimes blind the traveller, and he is lost if he fail to keep the narrow track. In winter, when snow falls, the drifts extend across the track—not parallel to it—and without care the traveller would touch a sideling and roll into a deep gorge.

The atmospheric effects during fog are, as described to us, altogether different from those observed in the Hartz Mountains, but as weird and eldrich. A man at a little distance is magnified, and he walks a giant. His horse is no longer a horse, but a huge creature of pre-adamite times. The shrubs are distorted and appear

"As strange phantoms rising as the mists arise."

The peaks seem to shift their places, the path itself is apparently possessed of motion, and without an experienced guide and a fair share of courage the stranger might wander here helplessly until lost in the intricacy of the ranges.

On one of the slopes as we passed we found the skeletons of horses that had perished in the snows.

Not only in winter, but in all seasons of the year, these lofty heights are liable to be enveloped in mist, to be drenched with rains, or covered with a fair mantle of white snow.

We were fortunate in making the ascent when the weather was charming. The icy air that cooled our cheeks was delightful. We remembered, however, that it might precede a change in the weather, which would altogether alter our plans for the journey.

We rested for about an hour at the Springs—the source of the Kiewa River—named by his Excellency, at your request, the Diamantina Springs—and thence pursued our journey to Bright, where we arrived at 7 P.M. on Friday the 6th February.

From Bright we proceeded by coach to Beechworth, thence to Chiltern, where we found a special train in waiting for us, and reached Melbourne 10.30 P.M. on the 8th February.

Soils, Timber, &c.

Our route from Melbourne through Oakleigh, Dandenong, Berwick, and thence onwards to Mount Ararat, was wholly through alienated lands. The road is good, and we travelled rapidly; but, even with sufficient leisure, we could have made few observations respecting the soils and timber of this area that would interest the public. From Mount Ararat to the Buneep (close to the junction of that river with the Tarwin), a distance of 9 miles, was over a granite country, Cannibal Hill, a well-known granite peak, showing rather boldly on the north. We observed in this part much spear-grass and swamp-hop, with fair splitting timber—peppermint and messmate on the ridges

and small worthless trees on the flats. From Buneep, after crossing the river of that name, for a distance of 3½ miles along the Tarwin flats, the country is thickly timbered with peppermint, messmate, a few flooded-gums, and lightwood trees, with much scrubby undergrowth in parts. These flats are liable to inundation, but they would yield good crops. From the flats we commenced the ascent towards the older volcanic rocks of Brandy Creek. For 3½ miles the same kinds of timber were seen, but the soil, perhaps, is not so good, and the grasses are rather thin.

Throughout this part of the route the view is circumscribed.

For a distance of 8 miles from the part just described the road over the rich chocolate soil showed marks everywhere of difficulties met and overcome by travellers in wet weather—holes where wheels had been buried to the axle, and deep ruts partly filled with dust. The area of the tract occupied by older volcanic rocks in this locality is 53,760 acres. It extends as far north as to embrace the old fern-tree gullies, and southwards to McDonald's track, including the heads of the Moe and Lang-lang rivers. It is a jungle in which the traveller can make new tracks only with axe and bill-hook. The timber chiefly noted by us was white-gum on the ridges, and blackbutt (in other localities called mountain ash) with fine fern-trees in the gullies. The scrub seemed to be principally hazel, musk, wattle, and dogwood.

The extraordinary richness of the vegetation in this area caused us to make application to the Government Botanist for information respecting the more prominent trees and shrubs which completely cover these rich soils, and, excluding the smaller plants, amongst which are some rare genera and species. The list is as follows:—

Larger trees.—Called vernacularly "Whitegum-trees." Eucalyptus coriacea, E. amygdalina (var. regnans), E. Stuartiana.

"Bluegum-tree." Eucalyptus globulus.

"Spotted gum-tree." Eucalyptus goniocalyx (sometimes passing as Bluegum-tree).

"Redgum-tree." Eucalyptus rostrata, also more rarely E. tereticornis.

"Stringybark-trees." Eucalyptus obliqua, E. macrorrhyncha, the latter also sometimes passing as an "Ironbark-tree."

"Blackbutt-tree." Eucalyptus pilularis.

"Boxgum-trees." Eucalyptus melliodora, E. viminea, and occasionally one with broader and grey foliage, E. polyanthemos.

"Blackwood." Acacia melanoxylon.

"Wattles." Acacia decurrens in various forms.

"Sassafras." Atherosperma moschatum (in the deepest gullies only, with also the following trees, which are not very large), Pittosporum bicolor, P. undulatum, Persoonia arborea, Pomaderris apetala, P. elliptica, Zieria Smithii, Hedycarya Cunninghami.

Shrubs of tall size, or sometimes small trees: Drimys aromatica (Pepper-tree), Exocarpus stricta (Native Cherry, usually with pale purple fruit), Prostanthera lasianthos (Mint-tree), P. rotundifolia, Hymenanthera Banksii (Violet-tree), Kunzea peduncularis (tall Weeping Myrtle), Callistemon salignus (Bottlebrush), Viminaria denudata, Acacia suaveolens, A. linearis, A. verniciflua, Coprosma

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microphylla, Banksia Cunninghami (Orange Honeysuckle), Grevillea Barklyana (our largest-leaved species and confined to the deep ravines of West Gippsland), Correa Lawrenciana forming with Goodenia ovata, Daviesia latifolia (the so-called Native Hop), Acacia verticillata, Helichrysum ferrugineum, Melaleuca squarrosa, Leptospermum juniperinum, L. lanigerum, Veronica Derwentia, Rubus parvifolius (the native Raspberry), Bauera rubioides, Aster stellulatus, and some others in many places a large part of the dense underwood more or less entwined by Ehrharta tenacissima (the climbing grass), Caulinia monophylla, Clematis aristata, Lyonsia straminea, Billardiera scandens, B. longiflora, Tecoma australis, Cassytha melantha. Myrsine variabilis, Panax sambucifolius, and Notelæa ligustrina (the native olive) grow also into small trees, so also Aster argophyllus (the Musk Aster), Senecio Bedfordi (Duke of Bedford's tree). The Beech-tree, Fagus Cunninghami, occurs mostly in the higher valleys.

Heaths to be met with in these gullies: Sprengelia incarnata, Styphelia ericoides, S. lanceolata, Epacris lanuginosa, E. obtusifolia, E. microphylla. Miscellaneous noteworthy plants from the gullies: Sambacus Gaudichaudi (native Elder), Casuarina distyla (the dwarf shrubby She-oak), Pimelea axiflora, P. ligustrina, P. pauciflora, Teucrium corymbosum, Fieldia australis (parasitical on the fern-trees), Myosotis suaveolens, Cynoglossum latifolium, Veronica notabilis, Hydrocotyle geranifolia, Solanum aviculare (the poisonous Gunyang or Kangaroo-Apple), S. vescum (the edible Gunyang), S. armatum (the Prickly Nightshade), Mentha laxiflora (Native Mint).

Among *Grasses* one is especially worthy of record: Festuca dives, which is limited to Victoria, and found only in gullies like these, but rising to 12 feet and more in height.

Remarkable *rushes* and allied plants: Carex fascicularis, Lepidosperma elatius, Cyperus venustus, Gahnia erythrocarpa (very tall, with brilliant red fruits), Dianella Tasmanica, Restio tetraphyllus, Calostrophus lateriflorus.

Great leafless *Orchid:* Dipodium punctatum.

Native *Iris:* Diplarrhena Moræa.

Ferns: Dicksonia antarctica (stout fern-tree), Alsophila australis (tall fern-tree), Todea Africana (square fern-tree), Polypodium pustulatum, P. rugosulum, P. australe, P. grammitidis, Aspidium coriaceum, A. decompositum, Asplenium flaccidum, Doodia caudata, Blechnum cartilagineum, Lomaria Patersoni, L. fluviatilis, L. lanceolata, Pteris incisa, P. comans, Davallia dubia, Trichomanes venosum, Hymenophyllum Tunbridgense, H. demissum, Gleichenia flabellata, G. circinnata, G. dicarpa, Tmesipteris Tannensis.

When cleared of timber and brought into cultivation the whole of these lands will be highly productive. It would not be difficult nor costly to irrigate some portions; and, with ready communication with the markets of Melbourne, which the railway about to be constructed will afford, this and other systems of cultivation, requiring the expenditure of capital as well as labour, will, no doubt, be adopted.

In these soils is found a large earthworm, similar to that discovered near Turton's Creek. Mr. McCoy informs us that the name of this gigantic worm—often seen as long as 4 feet, and thick in proportion—is *Megascolex Australis* (McCoy). The only other known

species of the genus has been found in hot-houses in England—supposed to have been brought in earth about the roots of plants from the Cape of Good Hope, or from Ceylon or India. These were described by the late Dr. Baird. Our species is distinct, and is remarkable in having a peculiar smell like tar.

From the eastern boundary of the Brandy Creek lands to Shady Creek—4 miles—we found rather thin loamy soils, with a sparse growth of wire-grass, the timber being principally stunted peppermint and messmate.

Crossing Shady Creek and ascending the spur towards Shady Creek Hotel, and thence 13 miles to the Moe at Westbury, we saw no grass fit for stock. The timber is messmate and peppermint, of no value for conversion. The road for this distance crosses the heads of numerous small creeks and gullies, falling into the River La Trobe, which lies on the left at a distance of a mile or a mile and a half.

At the Moe Swamp we found growing on the flats small patches of good gum and lightwood. At the point where the road crosses the neck of the Moe Swamp a bridge is being erected, which, when completed, will greatly lessen the difficulties of this part of the road.

From Westbury, after crossing the Narracan Creek and the Shady Creek, and passing over the Haunted Hill, we reached the Morwell River at Morwell. In this tract, and that thence to the boundary of the surveyed lands in the parish of Traralgon, we noted soils of the like kind to those immediately west of the Moe, supporting not very good grass, and trees chiefly of the messmate and peppermint kind.

Two miles to the south of the main road at Morwell and on the east bank of the river, settlement to a considerable extent has taken place, but with what results as regards cultivation we could not ascertain.

The route from this point to Rosedale and thence to Sale is not of an interesting character.

All the lands from Traralgon to Rosedale have been taken up, and from Rosedale to Sale the road is bounded on each side by lands purchased from the Crown.

The River La Trobe, from Traralgon to Lake Wellington, is bordered by extensive morasses, varying in width from half a mile to two miles, the aggregate area of which, up to the junction of the La Trobe and Thomson, cannot be less than 26,240 acres. These morasses are still in the possession of the Crown. Though they could be drained, so as in ordinary seasons to be valuable as pasture lands, they could not be cultivated with the certainty that the crops would be reaped. They are in all seasons liable to inundation.

In what manner such lands should be dealt with has from time to time engaged the attention of the Government; and in October, 1865, a Board was appointed to examine and report on these and other swamps in the Colony, with the view of ascertaining how far and in what way they could be made productive.

From Sale to the River Avon, both on the north and the south, all the land has been alienated.

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The soils of the tract lying between the La Trobe and the Avon, and those on the borders of the Macallister and Thomson, for a distance of 16 miles from the point at which they fall into the La Trobe, are rich as compared with the soils covering rocks of the same age on the east and the west. This is due mainly to the character of the rocks whence the detritus and débris forming the soils have been derived, but in some measure also to the form of the basins of those rivers in their lower parts. Vast quantities of mud were spread over those parts which in past times were again and again inundated.

The La Trobe and its tributaries and the Avon drain a large extent of country, and at one period their waters must have overspread the country for some considerable distance above Lake Wellington.

The country between Stratford on the Avon and Bairnsdale on the Mitchell consists of sandy ridges running S.S.E. to N.N.W., with stringy-bark on the ridges and scrubby gums in the hollows. The soils are for the most part inferior with the exception of a strip, some 16 miles in length and 5 miles in width, bordering the lower course of the Mitchell, which is good land; but all this has been alienated.

From the junction of the La Trobe and the Thomson to Lake Wellington, a distance of 9 miles, the river is fringed with a narrow belt of timber, reduced in places to single trees, standing some little distance apart, and has on each side a morass of an average width of a mile. The depth of the water in the river varies from 15 to 18 feet. This part of the La Trobe is not beautiful, but the rather dull green of the bordering morass contrasting the occasional patches of rich foliage on the banks; the flags and some flowering plants on the margin of the river, and the strong lights let fall suddenly where there were sharp bends, presented forms and colours not altogether unpleasing.

Where the river extends its delta into Lake Wellington, the water is shallow, and the steamer left a well-marked streak of mud-coloured water behind it for some distance after we entered the lake.

The lake itself is shallow, there being not more than 10 or 12 feet of water in the course pursued by us.

From the mouth of the La Trobe to the mouth of the Avon the distance across the lake is 6 miles. The outline of a low scrub-covered shore, and the still, rather muddy waters of the lake offered no subjects for investigation; the distance was hid from us by haze, and it was with a feeling of satisfaction that we entered the mouth of the Avon.

Following the course of this river for nearly 3 miles, through waters bright and clear, a contrast to the waters of the lake, we landed on the left side of the river, on a low bank, and proceeded to the Aboriginal Station. Here we found good land. On the south-west lay the Clyde Bank morass, as yet unimproved for all useful purposes. This tract, about 5,120 acres in extent, is, like the morasses bordering on the La Trobe, still in the possession of the Crown.

Returning to the mouth of the Avon, we made a straight course for 9 miles to Maclennan's Straits. On the northern shores of the lake we saw but low scrub and an uninteresting outline, and on the south side, dimly, a low fringe of tea-tree. Maclennan's Straits are about

6 miles in length, and in breadth 3 chains. Large tea-trees and light-woods stand close down to the water, their rich green foliage overhanging it, and at each bend making pictures so full of delicacy and beauty that we regretted each one as it was passed only to wonder the more at the rare excellence of the colouring of those that succeeded it. The grace of outline and the contrast of colours in the foliage bordering these straits, the altered forms of the shrubs, and the softened colours in those parts where the waters reflected the foliage, struck each observer with astonishment and admiration.

The waters of Lake Wellington are fresh, those of Maclennan's Straits brackish in the upper part, and salt near Lake Victoria. In ordinary seasons the tide makes into Lake Victoria as far as the straits.

Though the waters of Lake Victoria are salt, we observed that they were discoloured.

Our course, for a distance of 18 miles, from Maclennan's Straits to McMillan's Straits, which separate Raymond Island from the main land, was nearly in a straight line. The low shores of Lake Victoria, and the great extent of smooth muddy water, would have been well relieved by the mountain masses on the north and north-east, if the day had been clear; but the smoke of bush-fires and the thin vapours that overhung the horizon, almost entirely concealed these remarkable features. We caught glimpses, now and then, of lofty, pale grey peaks, whose names we could make out from the descriptions of our companions and by reference to the maps; but the exquisite views which are obtained from the lake in clear weather were hidden from us.

In passing through McMillan's Straits, we saw on Raymond Island a patch of land, some 12 or 14 feet above the general level, with a sparse covering of crooked and weather-beaten white-gums. The straits are bordered with stunted timber; the shores are scrubby and low, and the aspect is uninteresting.

On leaving McMillan's Straits, we directed our course towards the entrance of the lakes, but when we were informed that an inspection of the works at the entrance would cause us to lose a day, and that on this day we would find no one to show us the works in progress, we reluctantly returned on our path and made for the mouth of the Mitchell. The distance from the eastern end of McMillan's Straits to the mouth of the Mitchell is about 3 miles. Following up the Mitchell for 4 miles, we arrived at a bluff known as Eagle Point, where we landed in order to make barometrical observations, to examine the strata, and to obtain, if possible, a view of the mountains.

From Eagle Point to Bairnsdale the distance is 6 miles. The river varies in width from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 chains, and the water is clear and bright.

At Bairnsdale we landed on the same rocks that border the lakes on the west, north, and east. On the south the waters of the lakes are separated from the sea by low mud flats and sand-dunes, that are not, however, altogether unproductive, and in some parts present features far from uninteresting. At the entrance to the lakes some lands are occupied, principally, as we were informed, for marine residences.

The Gippsland lakes, as geographical features, are full of interest. Occupying extensive but shallow depressions in the great extent of level tertiary country which has its limits on the north as far as Kangaroo Creek, a tributary of the River Mitchell, on the west in the tributaries of the La Trobe, and on the east at Ram Head, these waters may be regarded as similar to the pools that are left in the sands when the tide has receded. The laws which govern the flux and reflux of tides do not, however, govern these. The waters have not diminished nor drawn back. The land has risen, and because of the rise of the land there are phenomena presented which the geologist may study with advantage.

The lakes are being gradually filled with mud and sediment; and every year, with the advance of settlement, the work of filling up will proceed more rapidly.

According to an estimate we have made, the area of the lakes is 143 square miles; and the area embraced by the rivers and creeks draining into them 6,059 square miles. In the summer season, or in seasons in any part of the year when there are no great floods, the work done by the rivers in conveying sediment into the lakes is inconsiderable, but in winter weather, or in any season when the rivers run bank high, great quantities of mud and silt are cast into the lakes.

Very remarkable changes have been made in Lake King. The Mitchell discharges its waters into this lake; and at one time the embouchure was about 15 chains below the punt at Bairnsdale. At the present time the delta of the Mitchell may be said to commence there. The course of the river from that spot is nearly parallel to what must have been at one time the western shore of the lake, and the delta, or the river with its levee, is altogether 10 miles in length.

From Bairnsdale to Eagle Point the course of the delta is south; thence it is north-east or towards the mouth of the River Nicholson, which also falls into Lake King. When the delta shall have reached a point within the influence of the storm-waters brought down by the Nicholson, a bar will be formed and the Mitchell will make an outlet towards the east. This will in time separate Jones's Bay from Lake King, and entirely alter the features which are now presented.

Another large river, the Tambo, is rapidly forming a delta in a direction towards Raymond Island, and thus, in time, there will be four separate lakes where there is now but one.

The work the rivers are doing is accelerated by the making of roads and drains, the ploughing of fields, and by the tracks formed on the hill sides by cattle, all of which form ready channels for water in times of storm.

The width of the levee of the River Mitchell at its mouth is about 5 chains; the width increases as you proceed up the river, and in some places it is as much as 15 chains ($7\frac{1}{2}$ chains on each side).

From Eagle Point to Bairnsdale the river is bordered on the west by a morass, which is separated from it only by a narrow bank, and on the east by a mound of rich soil, which forms also the western shore of Jones's Bay.

In none of the rivers or straits was any current perceptible. We have had of late, not a drought, but much dry weather. For severa.

months preceding our visit the fall of rain was inconsiderable, and the rivers were not discharging as much water as they do generally in the month of February.

The quantity of water which the rivers—their feeders—would pour into the lakes, during ordinary weather, in the months of November, December, January, and February, is, according to estimates formed by us on data obtained by the late Mr. Dawson, 16,132,500,000 cubic feet, representing a depth of 4 feet and half an inch over the superficial area of the lakes; and in these months the quantity of water evaporated would be certainly not less than 10,959,149,188 cubic feet.

These figures show that if the rivers had been discharging the usual quantities of water they would have presented a different appearance at the time when we visited them; and the lakes, also, would have been unlike what we saw.

It is, however, not in ordinary seasons, but when bad weather and floods prevail, that great alterations are effected at the mouths of the rivers and in the beds of the lakes.

We regret that we had no opportunity of examining minutely and carefully all the features presented in the beds and on the shores of these lakes. A chart showing the channels in the lakes, the mud and sandbanks which are constantly shifting, and the outline of the shores, which are also liable to change, would be of the highest interest to the geologist, and useful, too, to the navigator.

Along the shores of Lake King there were many plants growing that were new to us, and it is here the Government Botanist found some fine trees of Acronychia, a genus known in Eastern Australia and New Caledonia, and remarkable for its splendid wood and the aromatic property common to this species.

Now that Gippsland is likely in reality to become a part of Victoria, and not, as heretofore, an almost unknown territory, and only in some sense related to it, we would suggest that a careful survey be made of the lakes and the morasses which lie adjacent to them, and that steps be taken to reclaim, if practicable, some of the thousands of acres of rich lands that are now liable to inundation.

The work of the survey of this tract should not be restricted to the laying down on plans of metes and bounds; it should be undertaken by an engineer, assisted by a geologist, and the objects should be the reclamation of the waste lands, the improvement of the channels and river courses, and the investigation of the forces now in operation which are gradually but surely altering the physical structure of the Lake country.

Such an inquiry would not be costly, and the results would be of incalculable value.

From Bairnsdale to Sarsfield, and thence to Tambo, we noticed some good country, in places well grassed and with good soils. The timber is chiefly stringy-bark, white-gum (ordinary Yarra or river gum), and some honeysuckle and wattle. The whole of the timber in this area is moderately well grown, indicative of soils that would repay cultivation.

From Tambo to Ramrod Creek we noted a prevalence of red-gum, apple-tree, stringy-bark, and a few iron-bark trees (here misnamed

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mounain ash). At Ramrod Creek there appeared, as well as those named, some peppermint and white-gums.

There are some small plots under cultivation in the valley.

On the Little Dick Range the timber is chiefly iron-bark and stringy-bark, with white-gum in the gullies.

At Monkey Creek the forest is thick, consisting of iron-bark, stringy-bark, white-gum, &c., with a plant wide-spread, known as native tobacco, the odour of which is very unpleasant. Here we noticed a beautiful climbing plant (Kennedya rubicunda) which had twisted itself around the small saplings. It has a flower of a brick-red colour.

On the track from Monkey Creek to Shady Creek we saw large white-gums in the gullies, a species of apple-tree, and some stringy-bark, and on the summit a good deal of stringy-bark.

Numerous large wattle-trees appeared in places, with a rather dense undergrowth of shrubs, the mint-tree, *weenth-kalk-kalk* (Prostanthera lasianthos), of which the natives make fire-sticks, being conspicuous amongst them. We noted here also a golden wattle with a foliage that, at a little distance, appeared of a slate colour. It very agreeably contrasted the olive green of the other trees.

From Shady Creek to Noeyang the forest presented the same general character until we approached the summit of the range. Within the granite tract the timber is smaller, and there appeared to be a larger proportion of box-trees, apple-trees, and white-gums.

From Noeyang to Navigation Creek we noted a prevalence of stringy-bark on the summit level, thence ascending the bed of that stream, to the foot of the Fainting Range, apple-tree and box on the slopes, with white-gum and peppermint in the narrow flats. The stringy-bark is found mostly on the southern slopes. It seems here to seek a place away from the direct influence of the solar rays.

Ascending the Fainting Range we observed a good deal of iron-bark with some apple-trees and box—the stringy-bark being rather thinly distributed. On these, the southern slopes of the range, the trees are larger, and the undergrowth of shrubs dense. From a sideling on leaving Navigation Creek, we saw some well-grown wattle-trees, reminding us of those which lend so much attraction to parts of the Yarra beyond Coranderrk.

After passing the summit of Fainting Range the trees are small, principally stringy-bark; thence to Sandy Creek the forest is open, almost parklike in places, with much apple-tree, box, and mountain white-gum, Eucalyptus phlebophylla (different altogether from the Yarra gum), and with large white-gums in the flats. The country is well grassed and very suitable for dairying purposes.

Onwards towards Reedy Flat the mountain white-gum prevails, with much yellow-box, apple-tree, and common box. The gum saplings are here a prominent feature.

As a rule the stringy-bark and iron-bark grow most luxuriantly on the southern slopes of these ranges: where at all exposed to the sun the trees are smaller, and they are seen but rarely in situations exposed to its full glare.

The forest from Reedy Flat to Ensay is composed almost entirely of apple-tree, box, and white-gum, stringy-bark appearing sparsely on the southern slopes.

All around Ensay we saw beautifully rounded hills, richly clad with grass that in the evening sun appeared of a brilliant sap-green and emerald-green colour. The white-gums in the flats (which here take the place of the red-gum of the lower country) with their olive-green foliage, the rich colours of the well-grassed hills behind them, and the alternations of the colours due to the effects of light and shade, made pictures at every point which were delightful.

All the way from Tambo to Ensay we noted an improvement in the character of the country; the grass was greener, the foliage of the trees was brighter, and the streams murmured and sparkled in their beds as we drew nigher to their sources.

There appears to be a very large extent of country in the neighbourhood of Ensay which should offer great attractions for settlers, who could combine the rearing of stock with the cultivation of the land.

From Ensay to the point where the road crosses the River Tambo the country is good. The forest is comparatively thin, and is composed of box-trees, with apple-trees principally on the northern slopes of the ranges, and stringy-bark on the southern slopes. *Binnak* (white-gum) and a few yellow-box trees were seen on the flats and low down on the slopes. A few she-oaks appeared on the hills, and many very beautiful cherry-trees.

All through this district we observed that the hill box-tree grew principally on the slopes, and that the white-gums were always taller and smaller in diameter on the flats than on the slopes.

In the river marshes and morasses near Tongio, we saw on the borders a purple flower whose beauty and luxuriance were attractive in a place where bright colours are uncommon.

The Government Botanist informs us that it is known as *Lythrum salicaria.*

Up to the boundary of the limestone, box and apple-trees were numerous, but this tract as a whole is lightly timbered.

On the limestone hills around Bindi station there is no timber. The summits of the hills are quite bare of shrubs, but well grassed throughout. On the rises there are honeysuckles and she-oak, and on the lower parts chubby bushy-headed white-gums.

The soil at Bindi is very good, as appeared from the vegetation in the garden at the station, which was strong and healthy.

Advantage has been taken of the natural situation to bring into it, for purposes of irrigation, the waters of a neighbouring creek; and whether due to this or to the constituents of the soil, the result is surprising. The growth of the clover and grasses is extremely rich.

On our road to Bindi, our attention was attracted by the soils of the flats of the Tambo. The flats, which are about 1600 feet above the level of the sea, vary in width from a quarter of a mile to one mile, and they are covered with a considerable depth of excellent soil, which would well repay the labour and cost of cultivation.

From Bindi to Omeo station the road lies for one mile and a half over limestone, which, like that to the south, is generally bare of timber. There are a few honeysuckles on the rises, and white-gums on the lower slopes of the spurs. The grass is everywhere good. On touching the granite the change in the character of the soil

and vegetation was at once apparent. Here we saw stringy-bark, apple-trees (a few), box, and *binnak* gum on the river. Beyond the Sheepwash the box has taken possession of the slopes, and the contrast between the pale-green foliage of the *binnak* (the white-gum of the rivers), and the bluish-grey of the box was marked and striking.

Up to and beyond the summit of the Great Dividing Range, where along the ridges the bare rock is exposed, the prevailing tree is stringy-bark, with only a few mountain white-gums. The quality of the timber improves as you ascend, and many of the trees are of good size; but, on leaving the summit to descend, there is a rapid falling off both in size and quality. Indeed the good timber may be said to extend no more than half a mile from the summit level. On both sides of the porphyry slopes, towards Omeo station, there is an open well-grassed forest, with small white-gums and a kind of eucalyptus known here as Black Sally.

There are numerous springs of water on the slopes towards the Morass Creek, a tributary of the Mitta-Mitta, increasing in number with the descent, and forming into streams about half a mile from the ridge.

The area of well-grassed country in the vicinity of Omeo is not less than 80,000 acres. The plains—old lake beds—are destitute of timber. On the margin, and on the ridge dividing the plains there are a few small white-gums and saplings. On the banks on the western side there are a few honeysuckles. Thence, towards the Mitta-Mitta, the country is undulating and well grassed, with a few small gums. At Smoking Gully the forest of the southern slope consists of peppermint. At the foot of the slope, and also on the summit, there are white-gums, and on some of the rises she-oaks and honeysuckle. From Smoking Gully to Livingstone Creek the country is ridgy, in part undulating, but everywhere well grassed. The forest consists principally of white-gum.

The steep slopes around the township of Omeo are well grassed, and the timber—chiefly peppermint, a kind of box (new to us), and large gums in the flats—was everywhere healthy in appearance. Some small patches of ground enclosed for corn, near the creek, and the small gardens in the town, were green, and the growth of every plant seemed to be luxuriant.

Over nearly every part of the Omeo country we found kangaroo grass, in many parts high and thick, affording good feed.

The ridges and slopes from the head of Dry Gully to Victoria Creek are all well grassed. The forest is white-gum, with Black Sally in the gullies.

On all the southern slopes, from Dry Gully to Parslow's, we observed stringy-bark and peppermint, with rather poor grass. There is also much low wattle scrub and bitter-leaf, or native hop.

The northern slopes are not so steep as the southern slopes are, and they are not so deeply scored by the storm-waters. They are clothed with a thick sward of kangaroo grass. In many places we saw varieties of gum which we could not class.

We diverged from our path in order to see Victoria Plain. We saw it with the afternoon sun on it. It is not flat, but slightly undu-

lating; it is in the form of long low smooth banks or ridges, running parallel to each other, with hollows not so deeply sculptured as to become water-courses. The lights thrown across the furrowed surface —gilding the low ridges and leaving the hollows in shadow—lent a beauty to this sequestered spot which under other circumstances it might not present. Set in a frame of forest—itself destitute of timber and richly grassed—it made a picture altogether strange and startling, entering upon it as we did suddenly, and with no idea of the character of the landscape which was to open to our view.

The soil of this plain is said to be good.

Part of it has been selected. Altogether it embraces an area of 1,500 acres.

Onwards, towards Parslow's, the grass looked poorer and the soils thinner. At Parslow's we found Black Sally in the flats and gullies; good grass and clover growing everywhere luxuriantly.

After leaving the Victoria River we passed through a forest for a distance of 8 miles, consisting principally of Black Sally and mountain white-gum. As we ascended, the trees became smaller, and crooked and stunted; and on reaching a small untimbered well-grassed plain, known as the Flour-bag, the sub-alpine flora began to appear, and several specimens were collected.

Continuing the ascent, there appeared in greater prominence scrubs, small gum saplings, and a good many low distorted gums. On the volcanic plateau the gums were better; but here again there was found a rather irregular undergrowth of scrubs. Where the timber became smaller and thinner, the scrub and flowering shrubs were higher and of better growth. Then the shrubs themselves became dwarfed, except in sheltered hollows; and finally, at 5,500 feet, we emerged from the timbered land, and saw around us only snow-grasses and small patches of low distorted scrubby bushes.

Not a blade of kangaroo grass was seen at any point above 5,000 feet.

In the gorges and hollows, at this altitude, there are some sheltered spots where the shrubs are well grown.

Amongst the plants collected by us in our journey over these mountains, and examined by the Government Botanist, there are many rare and beautiful specimens.

On the Flour-bag plain we gathered an everlasting (*Helichrysum bracteatum*—Willdenow), whose brilliant orange blossoms overtopped the grasses, and mingling with the white cotton-like blossoms of the *Craspedia Richea* (Cassini) and those of the orange-tipped *C. Richea* (var Alpina), made quite a garden on the skirts of the forest.

On Mount Hotham we found, to the exclusion of other plants, and growing thickly in patches, or sparsely amongst the loose stones, *Celmisia longifolia* (Cassini), with its greenish-grey leaves and yellowish almost thistle-like flowers; the greyish-white *Antennaria nubigena* (Ferd. von Mueller), its blossoms tipped with a pale purple; and in many places, but nowhere thickly until we reached the slopes, *Aciphylla glacialis* (Ferd. von Mueller). This plant belongs to the "Lovage" or Ligusticum tribe, and is, with a second species, peculiar to the Australian Alps. The Government Botanist thinks it might, perhaps, become available as an additional culinary esculent for coun-

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tries of the cold zone. Horses are fond of this Aciphylla. You noted this on the spot, and took away with you for examination a fruiting part of the plant.

Another specimen, also gathered by you, belongs to La Billardiere's *Pimelea ligustrina*, so named in the beginning of this century, when specimens were collected in Tasmania during Admiral D'Entrecasteaux's expedition. Yours is an alpine variety of that species. The fibre of the bark is of extreme toughness, and the whole plant is acrid; but the bark can be utilized in medicine as a therapeutic substitute for the bark of *Daphne Mezereum*.

At the Diamantina Springs, and elsewhere on the slopes of the lofty ranges, we found, as well as the bright everlasting, everywhere growing in luxuriance and with the richest blossoms, the snow-white *Helipterum punctatum* (De Candolle)—a plant with flowers like a small marigold; *Senecio lautus* (Forster), the yellow *Euphrasia Scabra* (R. Brown), the blue-purple *E. Brownii* (Ferd. von Mueller), the rich green leaves and purple and yellow blossom of the *Brachycome ciliaris* (Lessing), the pale-yellow flower of *B. nivalis* (Ferd. von Mueller), the beautiful *Wahlenbergia gracilis* (Alph. de Candolle), and *Prasophyllum patens* (R. Brown).

Amongst other plants collected were *Stellaria pungens* (Brogniart), *Pultenæa fasciculata* (Bentham), *Oxylobium alpestre* (Ferd. von Mueller), and *Crites lancifolia* (Ferd. von Mueller).

Nature in these regions has not been interfered with by man; and yet there was something almost artificial in the aspect of the hollow around the Diamantina Springs. The richly foliaged shrubs seemed to have been set in their places in obedience to rules of art, and the flowers did not much mingle with each other. Through the thick soft grass rose here a wide patch of rich purple flowers, there an irregular mass of white blossoms, and beyond a long bed of pink. On one slope the bright orange of a large everlasting prevailed, and on the opposite bank wide patches of white and red mingled with the vivid green of a plant like anemone. It would not be possible to find hollows and dells more richly adorned than those which here face the sun.

The grasses from Mount Hotham to and beyond the ridge leading to Mount Feathertop are thin and poor, as compared with those on the slopes, and, at one point, there is a rather thick scrub, with a few small distorted eucalyptus shrubs. Feathertop itself is moderately grassed, but there is no tree or shrub on it.

Making the descent from Feathertop towards Stony Creek we found no vestige of the snow-grasses after reaching the level of 5,500 feet. Scrub and low bushes appear below that line, then a low eucalyptus scrub, like mallee, extending for a mile and a half, which gives place to distorted and crooked white-gum trees—small and low. The timber improves at every step in the descent after the scrub is left, until at length messmate is met with, which becomes larger and better as we approach a considerable belt of wattle-trees, at no very great elevation above Stony Creek. From that point to the river there is the ordinary gum, box, stringy-bark, and messmate forest.

Mr. Howitt communicated some curious facts relative to the distri-

bution of plants foreign to Gippsland. He informed us that all along the paths over the mountains that are trodden by pack-horses there is a line of acclimatized plants, such as hogweed, clover, &c. The horses appear to carry the seeds of hogweed and a very little Dutch (white) clover wherever they travel. Where bullock teams traverse, and along tracks where cattle are driven to market, clover and rye-grass spring up. Cattle from the Maneroo country carry clover and also the portulac of Central Australia (brought, most probably, from New England).

The introduction of foreign animals into Australia will, perhaps, influence the character of the country more indirectly than directly. The vegetation of vast tracts will be changed by the seeds distributed by them in their wanderings.

Geology.

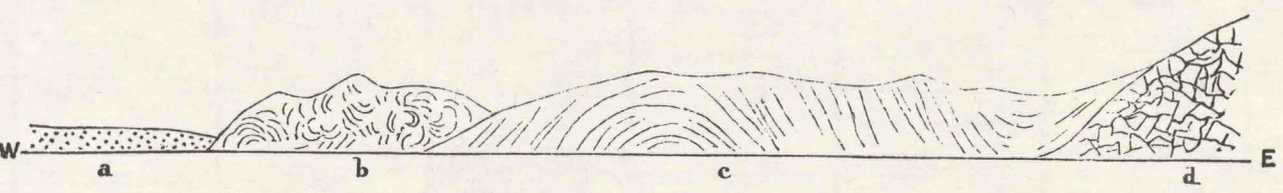
The observations made during our journey have enabled us to correct some inaccuracies in the geological maps of the Colony, and to indicate several new and interesting features in the rock formations.

The road from Melbourne to Dandenong is, throughout, over upper tertiaries, consisting of beds of coarse white and reddish-brown sands, in places consolidated, similar to those through which the railway from Melbourne to Brighton is cut.

At Dandenong we touched the great mass of ternary granite, which extends thence easterly for 65 miles to the watershed of the Thomson.

On our road to Berwick we observed a patch of upper silurian rock not shown on the geological maps, which appears to belong to a low range, in part covered by newer tertiaries, extending from the southern boundary of the granite to the north-western shores of Western Port Bay. It is, in fact, the remains of an old spur which once connected the upper silurians which lie to the east of Mount Martha with those east of Berwick. When further explorations shall have been made in this tract, and the surveys completed, the connection between the auriferous upper silurians of the Yarra basin with rocks of the same age in Mornington will be established.

At Berwick we found a strip of country broken into well-rounded hills, and with very rich soils, altogether different in character to the sandy tertiaries. It is formed of a patch of older volcanic rock, similar in age and composition to that found at Essendon, Bacchus Marsh, Portarlington, Flinders, French Island, Phillip Island, and Griffith's point.



a. Upper tertiary. *b*. Older volcanic. *c*. Upper silurian. *d*. Granite.

A section near Berwick shows the rocks as represented in the woodcut.

The older volcanic rock is met with again about 6 miles east of

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Buneep, where there is a dense forest on deep chocolate soil as rich as can be found anywhere. The isolated patches which are found on the Macalister, and the large area occurring south of Tom's Cap (probably resting on mesozoic rocks, as at Griffith's Point, Bacchus Marsh, and Portarlington), would lead one to infer that it underlies to some extent the tertiary sands in the valley of the La Trobe.

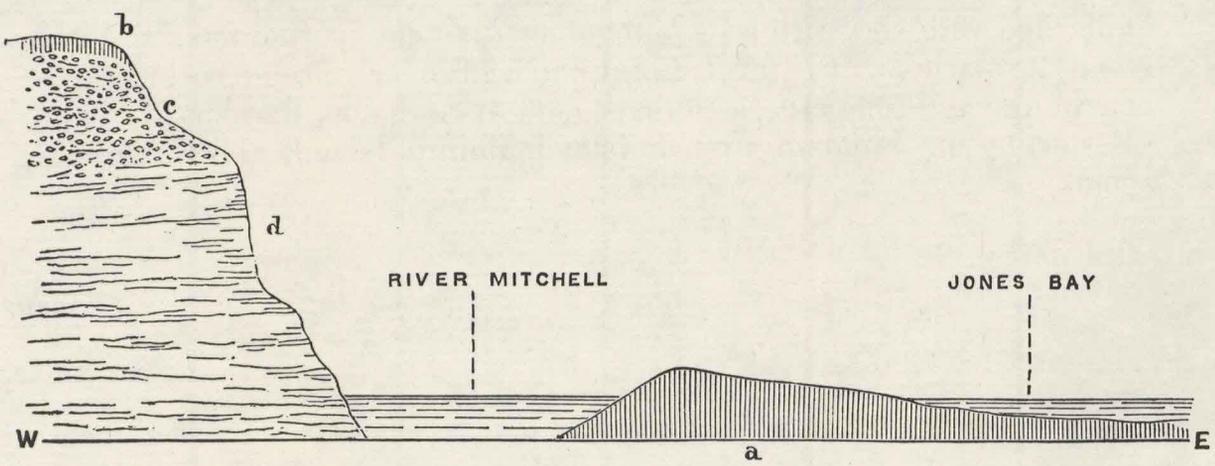
There are not less than 88,000 acres of older volcanic rock exposed in Gippsland, every part of which is covered with a deep rich soil.

At McKirley's Creek, near Crossover Creek, about 7 miles north of the Main Gippsland road, there are found beds of clay and quartz drift, and seams of lignite (brown coal), overlying a greenish-grey decomposed vesicular basalt, resembling, according to the descriptions furnished, that occurring north-west of Melbourne in the valley of the Moonee Ponds. The area over which the lignites extend is not known. As the beds are of considerable thickness, though variable in quality, they may become of commercial importance when the railway between Melbourne and Sale is opened.

From Westbury to Rosedale the upper tertiaries overlie mesozoic carbonaceous rocks, but we had no opportunity of examining the latter. To the north-eastward the mesozoic strata are said to overlie the upper palæozoic rocks. The exact relation of these formations to each other has not yet been worked out; and the key to some questions which have perplexed inquirers for a length of time will be found probably in the area here referred to. It is only in Gippsland that these formations are found to overlap. Elsewhere they are separated by masses of intrusive rock.

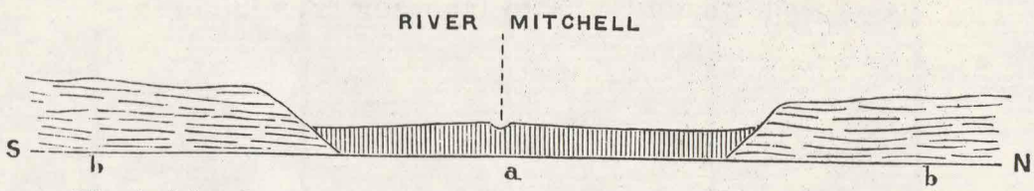
East of the great patch of older volcanic rock at Brandy Creek, and thence to Sale, we passed over loams and sands belonging to the later tertiaries. They are like the tertiaries of the Wimmera, and the soil is nearly as good in some places; but, unlike the Wimmera, the country is well watered. These tertiaries extend in an unbroken line from Brandy Creek (9 miles east of Buneep) to Ram Head, a distance of 182 miles, and in the aggregate (including the lakes) cover an area of 2,712 square miles.

The tertiaries of the River Mitchell are more interesting. At Eagle Point, on the right bank of the Mitchell, we found this section:—



a. River bank (alluvial). *b*. Surface soil—sand and pebbles. *c*. Compacted gravel beds—in places cemented by ferruginous infiltrations with pebbles of quartz — indurated slates, and porphyries. *d*. Horizontal ochreous sand-beds (marine, probably upper tertiary).

Near Bairnsdale a section across the river shows the limestone on both sides:—

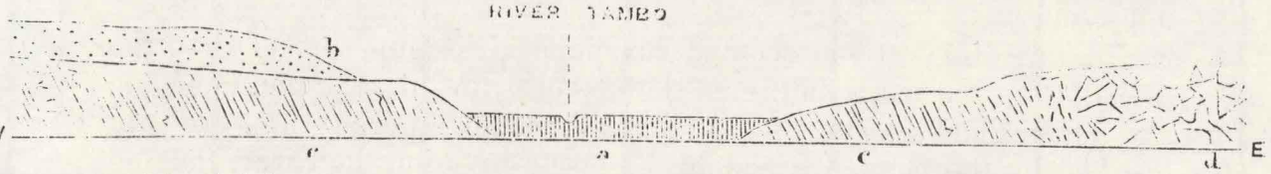


a. Flood-plain of river. *b*. Bairnsdale limestone—marine (middle tertiary).

The area occupied by the middle tertiaries is about 37 square miles. They yield good soils, with an abundance of carbonate of lime.

At Tambo we saw the last of the Gippsland tertiaries. Here we entered on a country occupied by older silurian, metamorphosed, and granitic rocks: there being apparently a passage from the sedimentary through the metamorphosed rocks to a ternary granite. Accurate surveys and a very careful examination of the rocks are necessary to a right understanding of their relative positions. At this point, as elsewhere, we noted, however, what appeared to be a gradual change in the character of the strata: well marked sedimentary rocks of lower silurian age, becoming more and more schistose and gneissose, until finally the rock became granitic.

A rough section across the river from west to east was made hurriedly.



a. Flood-plain of river. *b*. Upper tertiary beds (marine). *c*. Indurated lower silurian (?). *d*. Ternary granitic rock, perhaps connected with porphyries.

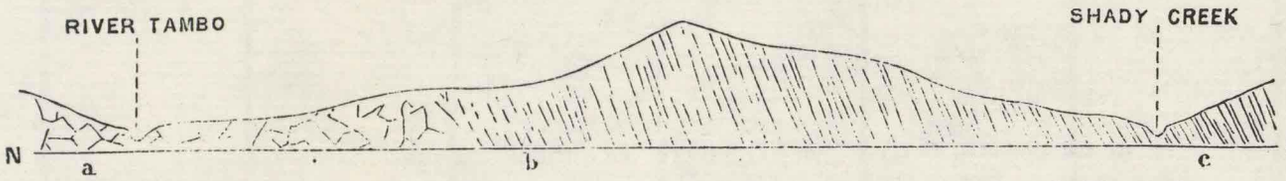
The height of the tertiaries above the river at this point we found by barometric measurement to be 104·1 feet.

From Tambo to Shady Creek our route was through a country occupied entirely by old silurian rocks, in places more or less altered, and with numerous veins of quartz. The country is exactly similar to that in which very productive quartz reefs have been found, and we are of opinion that there is here a very large area well worthy the attention of the prospector. The rapid rate at which we travelled prevented us from making careful observations, but those amongst us acquainted with auriferous tracts concurred in the views we have expressed. The prospecting of such a district could not be undertaken by poor men, as the cost of transporting materials and stores would be considerable. It might be advantageous to cut tracks in various directions, so as to connect the sources of the Nicholson and the Wentworth with Noeyang; but we are not in a position, from the limited opportunities we had of inspecting the country, to say in what direction such tracks should be carried.

Some of the hills attain here a considerable elevation, showing rather sharp peaks.

A little north of Shady Creek we entered on a granitic area, and at Noeyang we found quaternary granite and felstone.

The section from Shady Creek to Noeyang is as follows:—



a. Quaternary granite, felstone, &c., with dykes of greenstone and eurite. *b*. Knotted argillaceous mica-schist. *c*. Indurated greenish and bluish slates, and highly micaceous sandstones (lower silurian).

Seven miles north of Noeyang the road crosses the Fainting Range at a point about 250 feet below the summit. The rocks of this range, in places, are of somewhat similar character to those observed near Tambo, but on the whole may perhaps be regarded as metamorphosed lower silurians in the first and second stages of transition, and traversed by numerous igneous dykes.

Where the River Howitt joins the Tambo, we found in the beds of the rivers outcrops of rocks, consisting principally of gneissose granite, and gneiss passing into granite, and in the bed of the river boulders of granite with biotite, foliated schists, and masses of felspar and quartz.

Where planes of bedding were observable in the rocks in situ the strike was found to be N. 10° W., with a very high angle of dip.

In the boulders in the bed of the river we observed also masses of mica schist.

All our observations seemed to support the supposition that the divisions on the maps between the lower silurians, the metamorphic and crystalline schists, and the granites and porphyries, are not justified by the facts. It should be borne in mind, however, that no detailed surveys have been made in the area we traversed, and that, for all practical purposes, and exclusive of any theories of metamorphism suggested by the appearance of the rocks, the published maps are fairly accurate. We had very many opportunities of testing the correctness of the boundaries as laid down approximately in the geological sketch map, and, apart from the conjectures above referred to, they may be trusted as safe guides.

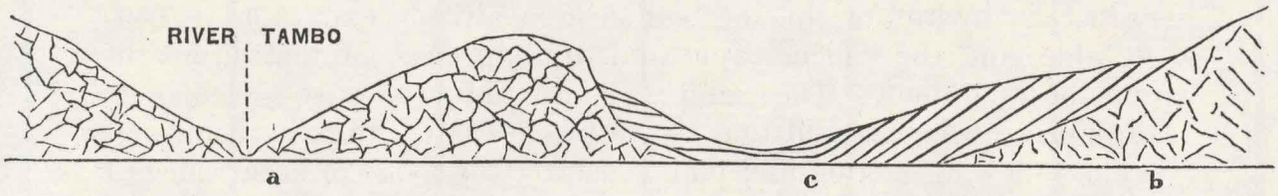
The observations made by us, though accurate as regards the sites visited, do not exclude the theory that the silurian rocks, the mica-schists, and the granites are really and truly separate formations. Metamorphism along the lines of junction of such a character as to lead to the inference first referred to may consist with complete separation into distinct formations. We have given as clearly as we can the facts observed, but it is only by detailed surveys and sections, and by analyses, that the true geological and mineralogical character of the several rocks can be determined.

About 4 miles north-west of Ensay we were shown a vein of epidote rock (epidosite), a dense mixture of epidote and quartz with some flesh-coloured felspar (orthoclase), occurring near the junction of the granite and metamorphosed schists. One other specimen picked up on the road in this locality was crystalline on the face of a joint in a granitic rock. The crystals are small, divergent, and in colour

pistachio-green to olive-green. The specimens have been placed in the collection of the Mining Department. In a "wash-out" which exposed the underlying rocks, at a point midway between Reedy Creek and Smoking Gully, we found, within a tract marked on the map as occupied by metamorphic schist, strata bearing a resemblance to lower silurians. There were, first, 15 inches of unaltered sandstone with thin veins of quartz; second, 12 inches of knotted argillaceous mica-schist; third, a rather greater thickness of sandstone with thin veins of white quartz; and lastly, another layer of the same knotted argillaceous mica-schist. The strike was N. 40° W., dip N. 50° E. 80°.

For some distance further our route was through altered lower silurian rocks, metamorphosed schists, and granitoid schists, until we reached a point 3 miles south of Bindi station, when we suddenly entered on the Devonian limestones. Well grassed rounded hills, with smooth slopes, and scanty timber of low growth on the lower parts of the rises, are characteristic of this formation. This limestone is fossiliferous.

A section through Bindi shows the rocks in this position:—



a. Granite, becoming schistose near the altered lower silurian (?) rocks. *b*. Purple claystone, porphyry, and felstone porphyry. *c*. Devonian limestone.

For the purpose of examining the so-called upper palæozoic rocks, one of us, in company with Mr. Alfred Howitt, left the party and followed the course of the Tambo for some distance.

Ascending the river, we found, first, a granitic rock, in places somewhat schistose; secondly, altered lower silurian strata, not showing a dip anywhere very clearly, massive and much jointed; following this there was a considerable thickness of quartzite, and further up the stream we came upon very thin purple shales and reddish brown and purple conglomerates. In one place a distinct cleavage in the thin shales, at an angle of about 10° to the plane of bedding, was noticeable.

The time at our disposal did not admit of our ascending Mount Tambo, where rocks of a similar lithological character are said to dip at an angle of 40°.

As far as we can gather, no organic remains of any kind have been found in these rocks, and their position in the geological series is therefore unsettled. There appear to us no sufficient grounds for regarding them as the equivalents of the sandstones of the Victoria and Sierra Range. The resemblance is enough to deceive, and that is all. None of the sections shown to us enabled us to say in what relation they stand to the Devonian limestones. They may, for aught that is known to the contrary, be as old or older than the Devonian limestones.

On regaining the track, we crossed a small tributary of the Tambo, and commenced the ascent of the Dividing Range. Here we found

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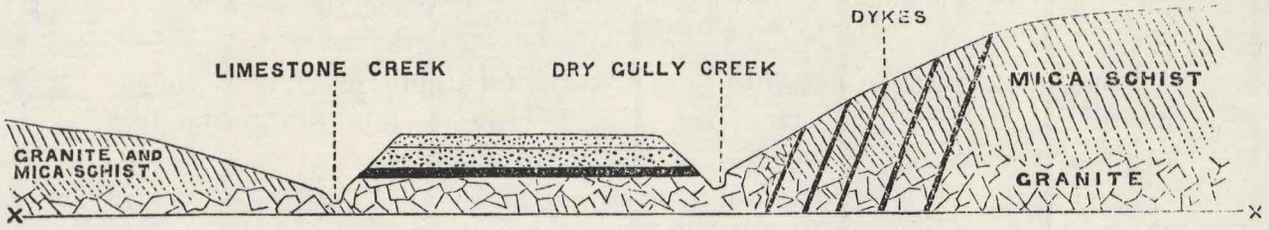
fine yellow and white mudstones, and yellowish-white sandstones, nearly vertical, and almost bare of soil. The age of these is as uncertain as that of the thin purple shales in the bed of the Tambo, and cannot be determined until the organic remains in them—if there be any—shall have been examined. The summit of the range was attained at 6.30 P.M. The reading of the aneroid at this point was 26·400 at 6.30 P.M. on Wednesday the 4th February.

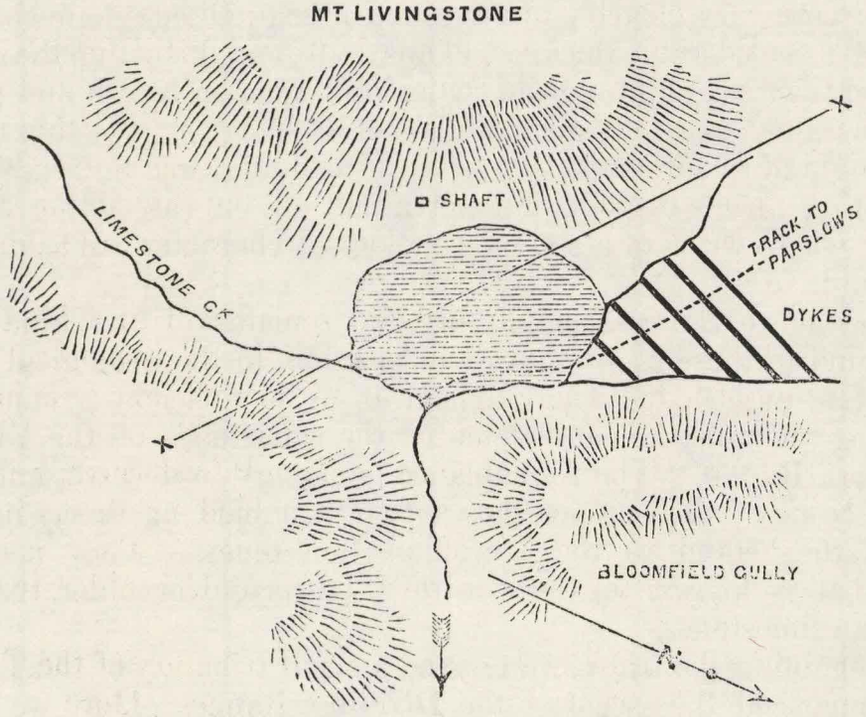
On descending the range we saw on the left, distant about a quarter of a mile and bearing S. 65° W., bold escarpments of porphyry. At Omeo station we found no outcrop of rock; but we were informed the lofty hills to the north known as "The Brothers," and distant about 3 miles, are of porphyry.

Travelling from Omeo station towards Omeo township, we passed over about 8 miles of plain before we struck a low rise of metamorphic schist; and this rock, with variations in character and texture, was observed until near Omeo township, where a rather soft mica-schist is seen. It is well exposed in the road-cutting above and parallel to the river, just before reaching the township, and seems but slightly corrugated, and with less quartz than is common.

At Omeo we inspected Mr. Fitzgerald's Dry Hill claim, which is worked by hydraulic sluicing. The area already excavated is considerable, and the "face" appeared to us at least 50 feet in height from the first floor. The claim is so situated as to have a clear outfall, and we were assured that the results are satisfactory to the owner.

The following section and plan illustrate the mode of occurrence of auriferous drift in this claim :—





The workings in this claim seem to be in the bed of an ancient tarn or mountain lake. The auriferous gravels, which consist principally of rounded fragments of gneissose and micaecous schist, granite belonging to this series, felstones, and greenstones, with a few boulders of upper volcanic rock, rest in tolerably regular beds on a false bottom composed of boulders of igneous rock (shown by a horizontal black line in the section). These boulders have been derived probably from a volcanic cap similar to those which occur in situ elsewhere in the neighbourhood. The boulders are in every stage of decay, from exfoliation in concentric layers to kaolin or magnesian clay, varying from white to brown in colour, and in touch from harsh to soapy and tenacious. The beds of the old lake are now eroded on three sides, and the surrounding hills are degraded. The mica-schist of the eastern side, which forms the area around Livingstone township, is wearing down more rapidly than that on the western side, which is gneissose and granitic, and comparatively hard.

At least four *leads* of different periods occur in Livingstone Creek, and probably five or more ancient lake basins—all of which have been drained by the creeks having cut through the lower rims—except one, the Livingstone Swamp.

Miners possessed of the same knowledge and skill as the owner of the Dry Hill claim would probably find in the streams in this tract of country similar lake basins with the like auriferous gravels; and the plan and section we have given may perhaps assist prospectors who see these formations for the first time.

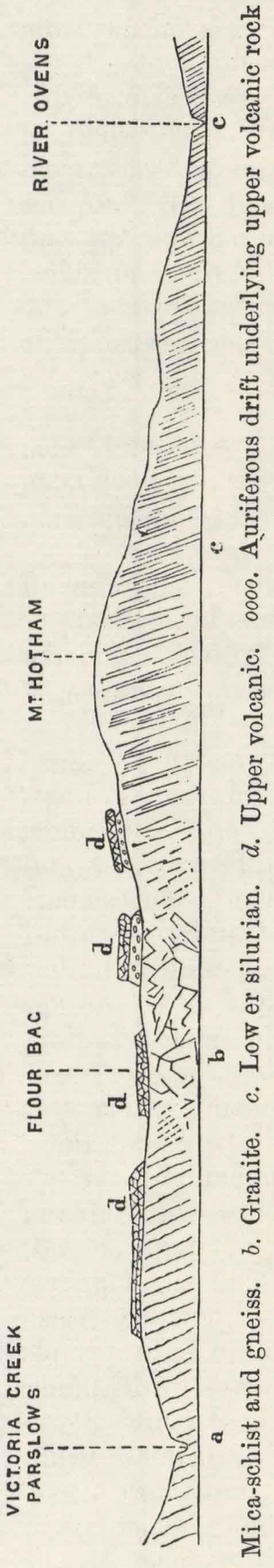
The sculpturing of the hills on the right as we ascended the steep from the bed of the creek at Dry Hill claim, on the road to Parslow's, was so remarkable as to attract the attention of all. The range, with a generally even slope to the creek, is carved as if by art. Small water-courses, active only during rains, at almost equal distances apart (perhaps not more than 200 or 300 feet), running straight down hill to the creek, have cut hollows in the range, and from hollow to hollow there is a smooth curve. The effect is grotesque; and it is perhaps only in mica-schists of similar character, and in the same situation, that the like symmetrical arrangement of buttresses can be observed.

Ascending the hill from the creek we saw the same rather soft mica-schist as we found on approaching Omeo, but here and there occur intrusive dykes or intercalated layers of a hornblendic rock.

Further on we noted knotted argillaceous mica-schist, with veins of hard dense white quartz, not as yet proved to be auriferous; and, after crossing a narrow strip of granite (sketched on the map we carried with us), we entered on slightly altered sedimentary rocks (probably lower silurian), which continued for about 4 miles. Following this we found a granitic rock which extended westwards along our route for about 8 miles to Parslow's Inn. On leaving Parslow's the ascent was over micha-schist, with veins of hard dense white quartz, to the "Flour-bag," a small well-grassed plain where occur newer volcanic rocks. On leaving this plain the mica-schist again appeared for a short distance, and thence to the heights, near Mount Hotham, we travelled over plateaux of volcanic rock overlying lower silurians.

One singular feature in the landscape we had no opportunity

of examining closely—Mount Battery—which, as described by Mr. Howitt, is a truncated cone, about 800 feet above the river, and standing out from a somewhat lower ridge which connects it with the main water-shed between the Cobungra and Bundarrah rivers. From a distance it has all the appearance of an extinct crater; but the summit shows that it is not a crater at all. It is a narrow ridge of columnar basalt, part of one of the extensive outflows of lava found on the summits of these mountains. The conical appearance is due to the gradual wearing away of the mount, and the slopes westward to the Cobungra are covered with broken fragments of volcanic rock of all sizes, all derived from the columnar basalt. The prisms are seen protruding at all angles from the broken stones near the summit, and on the lower slopes the pressure from above has pushed the prisms of basalt outwards. Although no traces of a crater are visible, it is quite possible that this may have been a vent. If so, the upper portions of the cone have been removed by denudation. The denuding forces have operated here energetically, and it is no cause for surprise that craters are no longer to be found.



It was highly interesting to us to note the character of the volcanic rocks in this area; and it was with regret that we had to leave it without examining the volcanic breccias on the slopes of the mountains, the cap of Tabletop, and the lake that lies at its base.

The volcanic rocks thin out as the summit of the range is reached, and on Mount Hotham we found only lower silurian rocks. On the road to Mount Hotham we observed fine sandstones, shaly and slaty mudstones, and silky shales, but nowhere did we see any graptolites or other organic remains.

From Mount Hotham to Bright our route was wholly over lower silurian rocks.

The following is a rough section of the rocks exposed between Parslow's and the River Ovens:—

We had the opportunity of examining many parts of this section very carefully, and it is certainly suggestive of important changes in the physical structure of the country since the period of the overflow of the volcanic rocks.

The geology of the tract of country between Bairnsdale and Bright presents many features of interest. We find near Bairnsdale, and throughout the area surrounding the lakes, upper tertiaries apparently of the same age as the marine beds at Flemington, the palæontology of which has been investigated by Professor McCoy. Next succeeding these are marine beds with numerous fossils of the same character as those found at Curdie's Creek (west of Cape Otway)

and in a cliff btween the Lakes Bullen-Merri and Gnotuk in the Western District. Mr. Howitt has examined these beds very carefully, he has collected a great many fossils, and he is of opinion that they are the equivalents of the middle tertiaries of the western parts of Victoria.

Northward from the northern margin of the tertiaries we enter the great trough of silurian rocks and metamorphic schists. We have stated already the conclusions we have formed respecting these and the gneissose rocks, mica-schists, and granites with which they are associated, but we are bound in duty to add that a cursory examination of them, such as we made, is not sufficient to enable us to give opinions of any great weight or value. Mr. Howitt is now surveying, and mapping on the scale of 40 chains to 1 inch, considerable areas in this part of the province, and we must wait for the results of his labours for a solution of many difficult questions discussed by us on our route. We saw some of the maps and sections in course of preparation by Mr. Howitt, and we are confident that this work could not be placed in better hands. As well as a "good eye for country," the capacity to class and correlate observations over a wide field, he has also a correct knowledge of the mineralogical composition of rocks, and by constant reference to authorities he can place each one in its proper place.

From Tambo to Parslow's we passed over a large area in which thousands of feet of rocks, originally deposited as sedimentary beds, and appearing in many parts as sandstones and mudstones, were in other places metamorphosed, becoming first indurated with more or less of hydrous magnesian silicates in the planes of bedding or cleavage, then schistose, and finally passing into granitoid rock and granite. Again, we noted vast masses containing abundance of magnesia-mica, the whole indicating changes—mechanical and chemical—which must have taken place when these rocks were subject to great heat and pressure. That there should be so much felspar and mica in the altered rocks is no matter for surprise when the mineralogical character of the typical lower silurian rocks is considered. They are not, as a rule, very silicious, but rather argillaceous.

The volcanic rocks met with between Parslow's and Mount Hotham are of singular interest. We saw no signs anywhere of any crater or cone. All that remains is a capping here and there on lower silurian rocks, with some thickness of auriferous gravel between the volcanic rock and the upturned edges of the silurians. The sources whence the lava flowed appear to have been obliterated by the denuding forces at all times active in these lofty regions.

At what time within the recent tertiary period was this lava erupted? Is there any connection between it and the lava flows of the western plains? And what was the physical geography of the country when the volcanoes that gave forth streams of lava over the once great plains, now nearly altogether eaten away, were burning mountains, making ruddy the skies above them? These questions will perhaps be settled when the geology of this tract shall have been carefully investigated.

An account of a journey through Gippsland would be incomplete unless reference were made to the metalliferous minerals, ores, and coals which are found in this part of the Colony.

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Osmiridium.

Osmiridium—a metal belonging to the platinum group—has been collected in small quantities near Stockyard Creek. A few days before we commenced our journey some of this metal, in rough grains, was sent to the Mining Department for analysis by Mr. Reginald A. F. Murray, who is now engaged in making a geological survey of south-western Gippsland. It is not probable that this metal is very abundant, but its occurrence in any locality is worthy of record.

Long before this sample was received, Mr. Patterson, the assayer for the Bank of Australasia, had obtained specimens, and had made known the fact that osmiridium was to be found in the Colony.

Gold.

Before Mr. A. W. Howitt undertook the task of opening up the goldfield of Gippsland, there were not more than 50 persons engaged in gold mining. At the present time there are 1,581 men employed in alluvial mining, and 943 in quartz mining. These, with the aid of machinery of various kinds, of the aggregate value of 144,588*l.*, raise yearly 70,000 oz. of gold.

The area of auriferous ground actually opened up, but not at any one time wholly occupied, is 148 square miles, and the number of reefs proved to be auriferous is 461. The tracts within which the already discovered alluvial workings and quartz reefs lie are comparatively small in area; they are, however, spread over a vast extent of country, and each one is remote from the other. During our journey we passed over hills and valleys of lower silurian age that are undoubtedly auriferous; we saw the volcanic plateaux underneath which lie gravels already yielding gold; and we are convinced that, with the extension of prospecting operations, new and rich fields will be opened up by the gold miner both on the west and east of the Tambo, as well as on the flanks of the Great Dividing Range.

We have in another place recommended that tracks be cut for the purpose of facilitating explorations in these parts of Gippsland.

Silver.

Argentiferous galena is found in the limestones in the basin of the Snowy River, and in other localities towards the north-east.

From the Dargo River, the Dargo High Plains, the Thirty-mile Creek, and Donnelly's Creek, ores, some of them pyritous, have yielded as much as 18 oz. of silver per ton.

Tin.

Black oxyd of tin has been found in the basin of the River La Trobe, near Mount Fatigue, and near Corner Inlet. Nearly all the areas occupied by granite yield more or less of tin ore; but up to the present time very little has been done in Gippsland towards the collecting and saving of this valuable product.

Copper, lead, antimony, &c.

All that is known to the Government officials in the Department of Mines respecting the occurrence of the ores of copper, lead, antimony, zinc, the metal bismuth, the ores of manganese and molybdenum, has been already communicated to the public in various Reports, and it is only necessary to direct attention to these, where the prospector will find recorded the results of careful analyses, and also particulars relating to the working of the mines.

Iron.

The ores of iron are abundant in many parts of Gippsland.

From Bennison's Flat, near Foster, samples of brown iron ore have been obtained, which gave on analysis—

Metallic iron - -	$61 \cdot 4 = 87 \cdot 72\ Fe_2O_3$
Silica - - - -	$12 \cdot 1$

Titaniferous iron-sand is widely spread in some parts along the coast, and good samples have been got near Wilson's Promontory and in other places adjacent.

When we were at Eagle Point we saw the Mount called Nowr-nowr. According to the descriptions furnished by Mr. Howitt, it is a hill of porphyry, traversed by dykes resembling elvans, and abuts on clay slates of lower silurian age. On the silurians there rest the equivalents of the Bairnsdale limestones (middle tertiary), and above those newer tertiaries. Great quantities of micaceous iron ore are found with the elvans and distributed through the porphyry. There are large blocks of ore on the southern slopes which Mr. Howitt says are of good quality and clean. There is a gentle slope for about a mile and a half, from the top of the Mount to Boggy Creek, an arm of Lake Tyers, where there is water deep enough for good-sized vessels. From this point to the entrance of Lake Tyers the distance is 16 miles, and by land to the entrance of the great lakes 4 miles.

There is said to be an abundance of limestone close to the mount, and plenty of timber suitable for charcoal.

A specimen of this ore was sent to the Department of Mines and analyzed. The report was not favourable. The sample contained a good deal of quartz; so much, indeed, that in smelting the iron would combine with the silica and form a slag.

If the ore can be obtained pure, or free from an excess of silica, the iron-smelter might make an experiment at this place with every prospect of success.

The creeks near Nowr-nowr flow over a solid mass of red jasper, and some of the fragments in the creek are as bright as vermilion-coloured sealing wax.

Precious stones are found in Gippsland; but no systematic search has been made for them.

At Stockyard Creek, specimens of the emerald, topaz, and zircon have been collected; and sapphires have been obtained at Crossover Creek, Upper Boggy Creek, in the basin of the River La Trobe, and in the basin of the Tarwin.

As far as we have been able to ascertain, no carbonaceous rocks different in age from those occurring at Cape Patterson and Cape Otway have been discovered; and no seams of greater thickness than those already opened in the western fields.

It is not at all improbable, however, that the equivalents of the Tasmanian Glossopteris beds may be found on the north-eastern side of the great area of carbonaceous rocks that extends from Griffith's Point to Tom's Cap. If they occur here at all they will be explored with difficulty, as there is a considerable thickness of newer rocks to be pierced before they could be reached.

We have appended to this Report a Table showing the extent of the areas occupied by the several rock formations, and some account of the character of soils belonging to each, and also the barometrical observations recorded at various points between Bairnsdale and Myrtleford.

The Omeo Plains, though lying at a great elevation, will hereafter be profitably occupied. They consist of elevated land, with a climate not unlike that of the south-western counties of England, but perhaps more severe during two or three of the winter months. The soil is a deep, dark-coloured, somewhat tenacious clay, producing a luxuriant

but rather rank vegetation. The climate is too wet and too cold for sheep of the merino breed, and fluke, a disease very destructive among these, is said to prevail throughout the district. The pastures of the plains, in their unimproved state, are unquestionably better adapted to the grazing of cattle than sheep; but if subdivided and brought into cultivation, the long-woolled breeds of Great Britain would undoubtedly thrive admirably upon them. The climate and the soil give reason to hope that a proper system of rotation cropping would be found to be practicable which in many other districts of the Colony, owing to the uncertainty of the weather, could not be carried out profitably. Root-crops, which are indispensable to proper rotation farming, and the successful breeding of long-woolled sheep, could be grown there from year to year without fear of failure through drought. It is a district that, probably, would be found better adapted to systems of husbandry resembling those of Britain than any other parts of Victoria.

The extensive swamps in Gippsland could be drained and sown with suitable grasses. Thus treated, they would make good feeding grounds in summer, and become available for the support of stock when other parts were dried up. They are not fit for growing grain, but from no fault of the soil; the crops might be lost in consequence of their liability to rust and other fungoid diseases. Root-crops and potatoes, however, might be grown in such low lands with profit in all ordinary seasons.

In the lower parts of Gippsland, as a rule, the growth of grasses for the support of stock should be encouraged; but there are many localities where the hop and such fruits and vegetables as are successfully cultivated in the southern counties of England might be introduced with profit and advantage.

In concluding this Report, which is a hastily written record of observations made during a very rapid journey, we have to express our regret that many subjects of great importance are treated briefly, and some not touched upon at all. If we had had leisure and opportunities for following up lines of research that presented themselves frequently during our tour we could have given information that would have been of practical importance to the agriculturist and the miner. We trust, however, that we have noted some valuable facts, and that what we have collected may lead to a thorough examination of a part of the Colony that, both as regards its geology and its features generally, is full of interest.

Gippsland, when there shall be easy communication between its central parts and the metropolis, will afford, both to farmers and miners, many new fields for the profitable exercise of their energies; it will, in future years, support a large population; and in its mountains and lakes the careworn inhabitants of the cities will find health and recreation.

It combines in its varied landscapes all that is attractive to the artist and the traveller; and even if it were not rich in mineral treasures, and if it afforded no certainty of profit to the grazier and the farmer, it should still be our duty to bring it, as soon as possible, into close connection with other parts of the Province.

In pursuing our inquiries in Gippsland, we received aid and infor-

mation from all to whom we applied, and to Mr. Alfred W. Howitt, the Police Magistrate and Warden at Bairnsdale, we are much indebted for help.

We have, &c.,

The Hon. J. J. Casey, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) A. J. SKENE, R. BROUGH SMYTH.

GIPPSLAND.

AREAS OF GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS.

	Square Miles.	Acres.	
1. Upper Tertiary, including lakes	2,712	1,735,680	Where not covered by sand-dunes, light moderately good soil; at some distance from the sea (where there is less sand), fit for wheat. All kinds of root-crops and maize grow well in these soils with proper treatment.
2. Middle Tertiary	37	23,680	Much lime in the soil. Yields excellent crops. Hops, fruit trees, and vegetables of all kinds grow well.
3. Oolitic (carbonaceous).	1,531	979,840	Soils similar to those of Barrabool hills, Wannon district, and Cape Otway. Deep rich soils in the valleys. In Gippsland this tract is generally heavily timbered.
4. Upper Palæozoic	687	439,680	Soil sandy, gravelly, and poor. Grass moderately good. Stringy-bark on the hills, gum and box near the rivers. Pittosporum and other umbrageous trees in the deep gorges of the Mitchell, with curryjongs, &c.
5. Devonian - -	65	41,600	Limestone hills with good soil. Scarcely any timber.
6. Upper Silurian	1,736	1,111,040	Ranges with thin soils. Deeper and better soils in the flats.
7. Lower Silurian	3,548	2,270,720	Ranges with thin soils. Good soils in the river flats. Grass thin. Stringy-bark, iron-bark, and scrub.
8. Metamorphic -	235	150,400	Rugged ranges. Wherever the country is at all level the soil is good and highly productive.
9. Newer Volcanic	279	178,560	Soils like those of Keilor Plains and the Werribee, but in Gippsland these tracts lie at a great elevation.
10. Older Volcanic	138	88,320	Soils very rich and deep, like those of the Moonee Ponds and part of the Bacchus Marsh district. The timber and scrub dense.
11. Trap - -	1,275	816,000	Mountains rugged and rocky; bare of soil in places; elsewhere soil poor and gritty. Grass of medium quality; in the best parts, kangaroo grass; in poor places, wiry and in tufts. Timber according to elevation and aspect. Mountain white-gum on Black Mountain tableland, with stringy-bark and peppermint in the gullies. Near the Snowy River, in deep valleys, box and apple-tree. As a rule the trap country is not scrubby.
12. Granite - -	1,655	1,059,200	Light sandy soils. Open forest. Moderately well grassed. In places timber heavy.
Total - - -	13,898	8,894,720	

Barometrical Observations.

	Inches.
3rd February, 1874—	
Bruthen, 5.50 A.M.	30·010
„ At Hotel	30·020
„ Bed of Tambo	30·105
„ Hotel again	30·040
„ Difference, using means	·075
McDougall's, Noeyang, 11.45 A.M.	29·490
Near Summit of Fainting Range (add, say 250 feet, for summit level), 4.20 P.M.	28·530
4th February—	
Mr. Birt's house, Bindi, 12.50 P.M.	28·445
First hill after leaving Tambo River, 5.20 P.M.	27·700
Summit of Great Dividing Range, on track to Omeo, 6.30 P.M.	26·400
Thursday, 5th February—	
Omeo Station, 5.45 A.M.	27·265
Omeo Township, 10.45 A.M.	27·540
Bed of Creek above Omeo, 4.25 P.M.	27·425
Parslow's, 7 P.M.	26·400
Friday, 6th February—	
Parslow's, 4 A.M.	26·425
Flour-bag (Grassy Plain), 8 A.M.	25·060
Baldy (Mount Hotham), 12.10 P.M.	23·850
Diamantina Springs, 12.30 P.M.	24·288
Road over Feathertop (highest point of road about 800 feet below summit of Feathertop), 3.45 P.M.	24·175
Saturday, 7th February—	
Bright, 8.25 A.M.	28·725
Myrtleford, 2 P.M.	28·960

QUEENSLAND.

STATISTICAL VIEW OF QUEENSLAND, SINCE SEPARATION FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.

Year.	POPULATION.					MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROGRESS.						PRODUCTION.																	Year.
						Education.		Mechanics' Institutes.		Charitable Institutions.		Crown Lands.				Land under Crop.			Live Stock.				Mills, Manufactories, Works, &c.	Mining.						
																								Gold.		Copper.			Coal.		
	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Immigration (excess over Emigration).	Population on 31st December.	Schools.	Scholars.	Subscribers.	Volumes in Library.	No.	Persons Relieved.	Quantity sold by Auction.	Amount Realised.	No. of Squatting Runs.	Area Leased.	Total No. of Acres under Cultivation.	Under Cotton.	Under Sugar-cane.	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.		Quantity by Escort.	Value.	Quantity of Ore Raised.	Quantity of Refined Copper produced.	Value.	Quantity Raised.	Value.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Acres.	£	No.	Acres.	No.	Acres.	Acres.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	ozs.	£	Tons.	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	
1860	1,236	278	478	—	28,056	41	1,890	—	—	6	397	23,587	37,978	1,300	41,027,200	3,353	14	—	23,504	432,890	3,166,802	7,147	13	—	—	—	—	—	12,327	9,244	1860
1861	1,423	320	500	—	34,367	43	2,438	536	4,890	6	491	56,849	94,063	1,727	51,811,200	4,440	395	—	28,983	560,196	4,093,381	7,465	15	—	—	49	1,450	—	14,212	9,920	1861
1862	1,702	570	797	9,805	45,077	54	3,060	779	4,232	6	648	67,873	106,019	1,926	57,200,000	6,067	392	—	36,532	637,296	4,553,353	7,066	20	—	—	—	—	—	24,067	19,253	1862
1863	2,221	774	1,275	14,394	61,640	72	5,452	797	5,369	6	1,075	62,948	108,828	2,545	74,286,080	11,262	2,021	—	45,805	880,392	5,672,400	7,351	23	8,000	30,000	—	—	—	2,400	1,500	1863
1864	2,883	951	1,446	10,959	74,036	89	6,858	753	6,692	7	1,447	139,814	210,725	2,849	84,729,760	12,006	479	93	40,678	882,073	5,665,334	12,066	34	—	—	2,512	89	7,120	25,000	15,000	1864
1865	3,532	1,074	1,733	11,969	87,804	101	9,091	1,133	6,807	7	1,626	145,799	224,403	3,236	98,634,880	14,414	477	449	51,091	848,346	6,594,966	14,888	44	—	—	1,415	449	36,144	30,000	18,750	1865
1866	4,127	1,068	2,362	8,396	96,201	129	10,955	1,216	8,916	12	2,546	113,598	141,325	3,470	106,123,520	24,433	2,884	607	52,311	919,414	7,278,778	13,961	79	21,090	79,143	2,835	604	54,360	39,316	21,049	1866
1867	4,476	935	1,745	917	99,849	148	11,393	1,072	9,068	14	1,763	41,765	49,837	3,619	171,093,920	31,559	8,149	1,995	53,143	940,354	8,665,757	18,142	90	48,213	170,090	3,990	521	39,075	17,988	9,566	1867
1868	4,460	863	1,799	4,287	107,427	167	12,628	816	10,044	15	1,840	57,070	61,085	3,969	179,696,950	39,321	11,453	3,396	66,878	968,279	8,921,784	26,185	125	122,112	429,907	6,571	1,235	92,625	19,611	11,519	1868
1869	4,654	903	1,761	423*	109,897	192	13,472	1,304	15,964	16	2,548	33,287	32,638	3,560	171,903,692	47,034	14,426	5,165	71,530	994,600	8,646,243	29,466	250	130,944	451,352	8,268	1,386	110,960	11,120	5,907	1869
1870	4,905	879	1,645	2,410	115,567	173	18,043	1,271	17,633	16	2,611	83,258	76,563	2,223	106,492,334	52,210	14,674	6,341	83,358	1,076,630	8,163,818	30,992	472	100,634	351,412	8,936	1,523	103,564	22,639	12,311	1870
1871	5,205	970	1,785	3,359	125,146	191	20,737	1,401	18,556	16	2,545	45,707	46,025	2,214	107,284,934	59,969	12,962	9,581	91,910	1,168,235	7,403,334	32,707	611	151,544	504,876	14,503	2,490	174,300	17,000	9,407	1871
1872	5,265	1,125	1,936	5,078	133,533	210	23,728	1,711	20,890	21	2,796	9,459	15,731	2,840	123,737,093	62,491	12,002	11,757	92,798	1,200,992	6,687,907	35,732	593	178,308	592,993	19,631	2,448	196,000	27,727	16,120	1872

Year.	INTERCHANGE.																												Year.
	Postal.					Shipping.				Exports (Seaward) the Produce of Queensland.																Imports.	Exports.	Railways.		Electric Telegraph.		
						Inwards.		Outwards.		Wool.		Tallow.		Gold.		Copper.		Cotton.		Live Stock.		Meat.								
	Letters.	Newspapers.	Packets.	Money Orders Issued and Paid.	Amount of Transactions.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	No.	Value.	Fresh and Preserved (value).	Extract (value).	Timber (value).	Coal (value).	Total Value.	Total Value.	Miles open.	No. of Passengers.	Miles of Wire.	No. of Messages.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	£	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	lbs.	£	Tons.	£	ozs.	£	cwt.	£	lbs.	£	No.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	No.	No.	No.	No.	
1860	279,379	250,365	4,456	—	—	210	45,736	183	39,503	5,007,167	444,188	640	25,628	4,127	14,576	—	50	—	—	—	510	5,356	—	2,442	646	742,023	523,477	—	—	—	—	1860
1861	515,211	427,489	7,652	—	—	251	57,377	234	51,827	6,994,033	613,074	1,247	48,009	1,077	3,928	360	644	—	4	3,103	1,845	1,198	—	2,629	1,870	967,951	709,599	—	—	169	5,678	1861
1862	723,064	606,503	9,430	574	2,238	330	77,312	305	71,981	8,063,612	627,182	1,503	50,979	189	625	5,360	10,332	14,344	1,423	1,320	1,467	510	—	3,066	3,642	1,323,509	793,236	—	—	169	16,833	1862
1863	1,070,690	945,918	17,340	3,698	15,094	389	104,421	353	98,844	10,669,044	776,776	883	30,716	3,936	14,802	173	296	31,557	3,056	659	1,469	258	—	5,482	4,279	1,713,263	888,381	—	—	221	19,219	1863
1864	1,111,892	1,149,057	19,474	6,598	27,736	431	129,687	396	116,702	14,006,789	1,037,663	1,137	32,999	22,037	83,292	29	146	38,730	4,186	274	1,208	229	—	8,039	141	2,267,954	1,247,054	—	—	298	27,246	1864
1865	1,370,708	1,103,318	24,833	9,841	41,592	497	173,227	488	167,153	12,251,841	885,299	1,940	57,155	25,338	92,938	4,424	18,440	145,820	12,197	2,175	6,404	765	—	8,383	3	2,505,559	1,153,464	21	17,297	1,131	47,697	1865
1866	1,545,916	1,135,084	36,021	12,158	51,708	569	197,665	556	195,991	14,346,239	987,659	1,300	53,597	22,916	85,561	8,820	33,918	207,272	19,618	9,139	38,948	14,468	2,800	13,625	32	2,467,907	1,366,491	50	38,569	1,565	64,372	1866
1867	1,447,284	1,120,068	37,674	16,050	74,042	477	149,876	459	145,301	21,554,557	1,462,209	2,733	90,293	49,091	189,248	17,920	66,038	412,941	26,631	461,695	221,533	3,298	23,150	17,802	—	1,747,735	2,198,609	136	18,392	1,752	63,412	1867
1868	1,728,105	1,180,384	46,387	19,310	87,375	511	132,943	478	127,871	18,906,778	1,057,211	3,706	122,544	165,801	593,516	21,769	77,136	1,809,628	68,929	494	2,160	7,903	30,165	16,578	25	1,899,119	2,107,437	160	24,615	1,811	67,111	1868
1869	1,704,670	1,087,345	47,008	21,838	96,020	548	145,213	527	142,802	22,386,650	1,098,149	5,240	166,039	138,221	523,045	24,535	87,268	1,118,899	51,217	2,170	9,902	5,660	30,623	30,241	202	1,804,578	2,166,806	206	26,178	2,182	70,112	1869
1870	1,662,677	1,183,007	42,341	19,923	85,295	476	133,292	456	127,992	20,695,627	1,026,061	4,818	167,230	136,773	489,539	18,505	63,298	1,630,755	73,437	1,757	4,119	16,303	46,720	19,937	—	1,577,339	2,533,732	206	35,853	2,221	81,483	1870
1871	1,792,644	1,134,813	52,021	21,100	88,739	494	143,611	472	139,064	22,339,348	1,158,833	6,209	139,181	171,937	616,907	51,099	174,701	2,602,100	79,317	506	2,373	37,844	42,118	20,216	—	1,562,665	2,760,045	218	37,539	2,614	82,630	1871
1872	2,203,040	1,288,747	77,010	30,208	114,847	522	148,630	507	143,380	17,793,392	1,169,812	2,890	100,201	186,019	660,396	57,720	234,540	1,486,987	59,774	7	2,095	62,692	4,891	20,079	3	2,218,717	2,998,934	218	40,539	3,368	121,970	1872

THE Colony of Queensland comprises the north-eastern portion of the Continent of Australia—its northern extremity is Cape York, and its southern (on the coast) Point Danger. The one hundred and thirty-eighth degree of longitude is its boundary on the west.

The area of the Colony is 678,600 square miles, and its seaboard extends 2,250 miles.

The Colony is divided into twenty-two Electorates, of which nine may be termed urban, and thirteen country. It has sixteen municipalities, and about forty small towns or townships.

From the returns of the Census of 1871, it appears that, out of the entire population, 47,300 are Australian born (of whom 36,400 were born in the Colony); 26,300 were born in England, 21,000 in Ireland, 8,500 in Scotland, and 8,300 in Germany.

There were only 547 persons returned as suffering from sickness and accident, being at the low rate of only 9 in every 2,000 persons.

The following are the rates of increase during the intervals between each Census:—

1861—1864	2·71 years	104·48 per cent.
1864—1868	4·17 „	62·53 „
1868—1871	3·50 „	20·22 „

Year.	ACCUMULATION.								FINANCE.						Year.
	Banks.						Savings Banks.						Land Orders.		
	Total Liabilities on 31st December.	Note Circulation.	Deposits.	Total Assets on 31st December.	Coin.	Advances.	No. of Depositors.	Balance to Credit on 31st December.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Loans Authorised.	Expenditure on Loan Account.	Issued.	Negotiated.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	No.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1860	332,173	42,765	286,917	574,661	63,843	490,861	163	7,545	178,589	161,503	—	19,384	—	—	1860
1861	390,238	63,104	322,310	730,917	84,916	618,315	242	12,192	238,238	255,180	123,800	43,826	18,575	13,337	1861
1862	442,245	87,103	341,155	888,879	105,268	751,678	489	20,562	295,286	317,026	—	50,290	90,383	51,144	1862
1863	598,941	107,634	472,765	1,235,961	128,632	1,055,989	655	26,789	295,215	355,791	707,436	48,610	166,471	95,607	1863
1864	928,409	137,799	757,153	1,825,782	178,503	1,571,188	876	30,662	369,425	439,034	1,019,000	401,421	114,718	133,031	1864
1865	1,000,924	181,615	770,912	2,281,461	193,017	2,023,207	1,798	56,516	472,451	459,025	1,170,950	685,246	227,796	192,541	1865
1866	905,668	126,957	750,604	2,225,436	218,656	1,906,579	2,466	86,499	490,269	594,130	300,000	965,346	151,154	151,281	1866
1867	1,025,286	125,272	868,816	2,000,558	307,907	1,586,033	3,130	123,158	610,860	661,795	—	693,428	32,726	58,788	1867
1868	1,214,586	167,568	1,018,566	2,051,227	333,062	1,583,817	4,276	220,662	724,854	742,207	—	207,845	41,086	55,308	1868
1869	1,138,639	152,865	961,612	2,002,822	279,238	1,576,747	5,327	300,522	738,218	761,594	—	117,077	52,541	34,710	1869
1870	1,092,053	146,921	923,556	1,725,494	264,872	1,306,769	5,821	332,843	743,058	764,491	765,600	155,256	25,262	43,480	1870
1871	1,436,076	170,601	1,240,696	1,695,310	279,375	1,203,938	6,769	407,134	823,169	787,555	—	135,374	12,745	24,310	1871
1872	1,842,848	229,509	1,590,283	2,200,346	481,848	1,489,515	8,121	466,754	996,323	865,743	1,466,500	156,424	1,673	8,133	1872

The following information as to the population of the Colony is taken from the results of Census taken on the night of the 1st September, 1871:—

Total Population 120,104

	Minors.	Adults.	
Males	28,742	43,025	71,767
Females	27,042	21,295	48,337

Of the 21,295 female adults, all are married except 2,521; whilst of the 43,025 male adults, 21,534 are unmarried.

The people of Queensland are principally engaged either in pastoral, agricultural, or mining pursuits.

Population of Pastoral Districts	21,790
Population of Settled Districts	98,314

The principal towns are:—

	People.
Brisbane and Suburbs, with	19,413
Rockhampton	5,497
Ipswich	5,092
Toowoomba	3,623
Maryborough	3,542
Warwick	2,228
Dalby	1,647
Clermont	1,222
Townsville	1,140

The largest groups of Gold Digging Populations are at Gympie, with 5,010 people; Ravenswood, 2,497; Neighbourhood of Rockhampton, 1,263; Gilbert, 1,146.

* Excess of departures over arrivals.

HENRY SCOTT,
Registrar-General.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 17.

Governor WELD to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Perth,
April 21, 1874.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the Annual Blue Book and the usual Report by the Colonial Secretary. I am sanguine enough to believe that your Lordship will find in it evidences of a sound and steady progress, which, unless unforeseen circumstances should occur, will in its turn be surpassed by the progress which is being made this year, and which is recognized not only here, but in the neighbouring Colonies.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) FRED. A. WELD,
Governor.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
April 21, 1874.

SIR,

I have the honour to send herewith the Blue Book for the year 1873, and in doing so, to offer a few remarks on the statistics of the Colony during that period.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue of the Colony has increased by upwards of 20,000*l.* during the year. This unusual increase may be attributed to various causes, among which may be principally named the healthy state of every industry, the general feeling that matters are improving, and the onward measures introduced by the Government to which the Legislative Council has accorded its support; added to which is the expenditure of the proceeds of the small loan raised in 1872, and the prospect of further public works as contemplated under the Loan Act of 1873. This increase arose principally through the importation of goods liable to customs duties, on additional land revenue, and fees received for licences under the "Sales of Liquor" Act, passed in 1872.

The expenditure, though apparently some 6,000*l.* in excess of the estimates for the year, was confined as closely as practicable with the sums voted by the Legislature. A sum of about 6,000*l.* (borrowed from current revenue) was expended for services provided under the 1873 Loan Act, and was again credited to revenue at the end of the year.

Public Loan.

3. During the year an Act was passed to raise by loan the sum of 100,000*l.* for the construction of a railway from Geraldton to Northampton, a distance of thirty-three miles through a rich mineral country, and also for the extension of telegraphic communication to the Victoria district. This loan was sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government, and the first moiety of it was floated on satisfactory terms at Melbourne at the end of the year.

Tenders were invited prior to the end of the year for the construction of the railway, and on the 31st December the extended telegraph line was in a forward state.

Mines.

4. The proposed construction of a railway from Geraldton to Northampton has given an impetus to the district through which it is to run; it has enhanced the value of property, it has caused persons from the Eastern Colonies to visit the districts and to invest capital in mines, for working which machinery and men have been imported, and there seems to be reasonable ground to believe that there will be, in connection with the mineral resources alone, sufficient traffic to pay the working expenses of the line. The discovery of fresh and valuable lodes of lead and copper ore in the vicinity of the line of railway is of frequent occurrence, and labour is alone wanted to ensure the preparation of a large quantity of ore for export.

On the North-West Coast, the search for mineral country has met with success. Lead ore possessing a large percentage of silver, and copper ore in which specks of gold are visible to the naked eye, have been found The reports received from analysts of specimens placed in their hands have proved encouraging, and the researches will be prosecuted henceforth with vigour.

Gold.

5. During the session of the Legislative Council a vote of 1,000*l.* was made for the importation of and employment of gold prospectors, to be employed for six months in searching the country for indications of auriferous land. Picked men were selected in Melbourne, and arrived in November. As yet their labours have not resulted in any discovery of value, but the prospectors are not disheartened, and anticipate success.

Quartz reefs containing gold have been discovered, and the testing at Melbourne of quantities upwards of a ton, promise results of a remunerative nature. A quartz-crushing battery has arrived in the Colony, and it will be erected in a central situation, so that samples from various reefs may be tested without delay.

Timber.

6. Great difficulties have been experienced in the pursuance of the timber trade, consequent on the want of labour, but the principal companies have lately made arrangements for the introduction of Chinese,

or Coolie labour, so that the numerous orders awaiting completion, and others that have had to be refused altogether, may be put in hand. The character of the "Jarrah" timber is daily gaining ground, and will, in spite of all obstacles, force its way into general use in India and Australia. The sandal wood of this Colony is still in demand: the value of this wood exported in 1873 was computed at 62,916*l.*, an amount exceeding that of 1872 by 22,000*l.*

7. The question of labour has become one of a most serious nature. The cessation of transportation and the entire stoppage of all immigration at imperial cost have left the Colony to supply such labour as may be wanted from its own resources.

The small means hitherto at disposal, the absence of any specially interested agent in London, and the inducements offered by the agents for other Colonies, have rendered it almost impossible to meet the required demands.

Her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners have pointed out the difficulty they will experience in procuring even a few single girls, and private gentlemen in England whose aid has been sought to engage some twenty farm labourers have utterly failed in their endeavours to do so.

Meanwhile, the opening up of new industries here, such as the Pearl Shell Fishery, the returns from whence are very satisfactory, the impetus to mining operations and the extension of pastoral country have absorbed all available labour, and unless a fresh supply is introduced, not only will it be impossible to extend operations in any way, but the cultivation of land will have to be largely reduced.

Private employers are contemplating the introduction of Coolies, and the question of the introduction and supply of labour must form a prominent topic for discussion during the ensuing session of the Legislative Council.

Telegraphic Communication.

8. Telegraphic communication within the Colony has now become matter of course, and those who thought the attempt when first made to be altogether in advance of the times would be the first to complain if the boon were withdrawn. The income derived from the telegraphic lines has rapidly increased, and will suffice for the cost of maintenance. Western Australia is the only Colony in this continent unable to communicate by telegraph with the neighbouring Colonies, or indeed the Mother Country, and a strong desire has arisen that she should be connected by wire with the Colony of South Australia. The Government of that Colony has very readily undertaken to carry a line to its boundary if we on our part take one to meet it. A Bill will be brought before the South Australian Parliament for this purpose, and a resolution was passed at a session of the Legislative Council held here in November last, in which the Government was requested to bring the subject under consideration at the next meeting for general business.

Should such a work be within the means of the Colony, there can be little doubt that directly and indirectly it will result in advancing

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the interests of the Colony, and increase her commercial and business relations to an extent that at present can hardly be estimated.

Imports and Exports.

9. The imports and exports are steadily increasing, and I see no reason to doubt further increase if arrangements be made for the introduction of labour. Failing this the large importations lately arrived and ordered will be in excess of the demand, and the value of exports must decrease for want of means to collect material.

With a population that has hardly varied in numbers during the past five years (remaining between 25,000 and 25,500 persons), it speaks well for the industry of the place that the value of the exports should steadily have increased from 250,000*l.* to 300,000*l.*

Sericulture.

10. A small vote was recorded during the Council Session of last year for the cultivation of the mulberry, with a view to the growth of silk.

The efforts that have been made prove that there are few parts of the world more suited for the practice of sericulture than Western Australia, and though it may be long before it is taken up as an industry, the success that has attended the experiments made proves that there is no reason why silk should not be among the largest exports of the Colony. There are large areas of land in the vicinity of towns that are well suited to the growth of the mulberry, though it is difficult to say for what other purposes they could be made available.

Concluding Remarks.

11. Financially, the Colony never was in so flourishing a condition as at the present time; her revenue is increasing in the face of a gradual but sure reduction of imperial expenditure, various resources are continually opening up, and will undoubtedly be utilized so soon as provision is made for an influx of the labouring classes. If this be done there seems reasonable prospects, and this will be allowed on all sides, that the present satisfactory condition of the Colony will not only continue, but will materially improve.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) FRED. P. BARLEE,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency Governor Weld,
&c. &c. &c.

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No. 18.

Governor the Right Hon. Sir JAS. FERGUSSON, Bart.,
to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Auckland, New Zealand, June 8, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have lately visited some of the most important native districts in the North Island, and your Lordship may desire to know the general result.

2. On the 16th March I left Napier, Hawkes Bay, and travelled by Lake Taupo to Tauranga, Bay of Plenty. Between the two latter points I had four meetings with considerable bodies of the natives. They are uniformly contented and well affected; they prize highly the advantages they enjoy by means of the main line of road now completed through the district, along which a mail-coach now runs twice a week, travellers and live stock are continually passing, and the electric telegraph is in operation. Several schools are established, and are well attended. At Ohinimutu, Rotorua, I visited one attended by nearly fifty children, whose intelligence and drill were remarkably good. The chief requests made to me by the Chiefs were for more roads, telegraphs, and schools. Towards the support of the last they are willing to make liberal grants of land.

3. On the 20th of April I left Auckland on a visit to the Waikato district, which was of some consequence as being that immediately adjoining the "King's," and the Government thought it proper to be attended by considerable detachments of the various forces employed upon the "frontier." I was accompanied by Governor Du Cane, of Tasmania, who was visiting me at the time, the Colonial Secretary, and all the local officers of Government. In accordance with the policy which has been of late pursued, only the European settlers and the loyal natives were invited to attend, which they did in considerable numbers, at a meeting at Newcastle on the 21st. I beg to enclose a newspaper report of the proceedings.

4. From Newcastle I proceeded to Cambridge, where I remained for two days, and visited some of the redoubts which are erected along the line of the confiscated boundary. Settlement is rapidly increasing in Waikato, and fine farms are to be seen throughout the district, indicating a growing sense of security and an increasing investment of capital. The railway is in course of construction as far as Newcastle, where there are coal mines, and its completion so far, which may be expected by the end of another year, cannot fail both to advance rapidly the progress and prosperity of the district but to secure it against disturbance from without.

5. From Cambridge I travelled across the country to Rotorua, not only to show the Hot Lake District to Mr. Du Cane, but because the ability of the Governor to pass through the native districts without any unusual escort is calculated to produce good results, giving con-

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fidence both to the European and to the loyal Native population. It is not long since a horse track has been cleared on this route, and I believe that it has not been traversed by any former Governor.

6. Upon this occasion I was a spectator of a large gathering of natives near Rotorua for the settlement of a dispute of long standing about the ownership of a large tract of land known as the Te Horohoro block. This dispute had lately come to a head, and in former times would certainly have led to war; but by common consent the contending parties agreed to abide by the arbitration of the Government, and certain officers conversant with native customs being appointed to act, were able to conduct the inquiry with the utmost regularity in presence of all interested, and to come to a conclusion in favour of one party without any doubt of the acquiescence of the other.

7. Again, on the 13th May, I left Auckland on a visit to the district north of that place, inhabited chiefly by the powerful Ngapuhi tribe, who have always been very friendly since the conflict of 1845, but among whom there have been a good many acts of violence from time to time. I visited the Bay of Islands, passed overland to Hokianga, and upon my return went on by sea to Whangoroa and Monganui. It is gratifying to see the cordial relations existing between the Europeans and natives throughout the northern district. Large numbers of the latter are employed by farmers, timber merchants, and others at the current wages of the Colony with mutual satisfaction.

8. It is proper that I should inform your Lordship that during the last two months there have been decided indications of a desire on the part of the "Hau-hau" party among the Maoris to put an end to their estrangement from the Government. Their Chiefs appear to be divided among themselves, and both they and their people to desire to share in the advantages which the loyal tribes enjoy. A meeting lately held by Tawhiao, the Maori "king," for which preparations had been made during many months, and which had probably been intended to unite his party, proved a failure, and upon its separation the principal Chiefs came to the neighbourhood of the frontier, where they have stated that they remain in hopes of receiving terms from the Government. A loyal Chief of the Waikato, who has for many years been active in support of the Government, has twice waited upon me and assured me of his belief in the willingness of the separated tribes to come under subjection, provided that they be permitted to manage their own affairs under their own Chiefs, upon which basis they would be ready to admit communications through their district and provide for the surrender of criminals. I trust that the Government will not lose an opportunity of so desirable a consummation, but in the meantime nothing is being done on account of the absence of Mr. McLean, the Native Minister, upon public business in Australia. It remains to be seen, indeed, whether the "Hau-hau" Chiefs are really disposed to surrender their independence, a step which would be distasteful to many of their followers.

9. With the exception of the danger of incursions of some turbulent members across the boundary, against which due precautions are taken, there is no disturbing element in connection with the native population. Europeans are constantly becoming more intermixed

with them, and they more habituated to, and dependent upon, the comforts of European products, and the money derived by the sale or lease of their lands. There is, however, much cause for regret in the demoralizing influences which invariably accompany the influx of Europeans. Few natives of any class can resist the temptation to drink habitually and to excess, while they have the means of indulging in it. There are Chiefs who set an example of sobriety or total abstinence; but it cannot be doubted that the frequent excess in ardent, and often bad, spirits by both sexes, and their inordinate use of tobacco from a very early age, are prominent causes of the rapid and almost general diminution of the numbers of this fine and capable race, which is presented alike by the paucity of the births and the mortality among the children (rather than among the infants). At the same time there is reason to hope that a remnant will be saved, and that the considerable number of children receiving instruction upon the English system in our schools may raise up a certain number so educated as to resist the temptations which have proved fatal to so many. The full capacity both of Maoris and of half-castes to acquire and employ all branches of knowledge, induces the belief that there will long survive in New Zealand representatives, and more widely infusions, of the Maori race.

10. I wish that some systematic effort were made to fit the children of Chiefs by higher education for their proper work among their people, and even for taking a part in the future government and business of the country. In spite of the comparative failure of some former attempts, I hope through private association, if not by the action of Government, to set on foot some definite organization for this purpose.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JAMES FERGUSSON,
Governor.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 18.

Extract from the 'New Zealand Herald' of May 9, 1874.

VISIT of HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR to the WAIKATO.

(By our Special Reporter.)

In accordance with the advice of the Ministry, and a promise made some time ago, his Excellency Sir James Fergusson has visited the Waikato during the present week; and in accordance with your instructions I followed his Excellency with a view of reporting the proceedings in connection with his visit at Newcastle.

His Excellency the Governor, his Excellency Governor Du Cane, the Hon. Captain Egerton, Captain Fergusson, and Dr. Pollen left Auckland in Mr. Quick's drag at 7.30 A.M. on Monday last.

There was no demonstration of any kind until the party arrived at Taupiri, an old native settlement, five miles from Ngaruawahia. Here about 60 of the Native Contingent, under Captain Tregear, were drawn up in line, and presented arms to the Governor; and about 30 mounted troopers, under Colonel Lyon, formed the escort

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for his Excellency from this place. The Ngatihana tribe had a large war canoe, capable of holding 150 persons, in which they intended to convey his Excellency thence to Ngaruawahia, but owing to the lateness of the hour this course was not adopted. His Excellency and party arrived at the Delta Ferry at 7.30 P.M., where a most enthusiastic reception was accorded to him. The guard of honour was comprised of 100 men of the Constabulary and Volunteer Militia Engineers, under their respective officers. A large number of Maoris and Europeans were present, and greeted his Excellency with deafening cheers. The party then proceeded to the Delta Hotel.

On Tuesday the native meeting took place, and was numerously attended. Prior to the meeting, however, a Maori sham-fight and war-dance took place on the flat above the ferry. His Excellency and party were present, and all the military in town paraded. The river party of Maoris, which made the attack, consisted of about 220 men, who were attired in fighting costume. The Ngatihana tribe, 120 in number, were in one war-canoe, under Major Te Wheoro, and the Ngatitipas, about 60, under Hori Kukutai, were in the other, whilst a mixed party of about 80 men accompanied in two ordinary canoes. The shore party consisted of about 50 Maoris, chiefly from Raglan and Aotea, and were under Wiremu Neira, Chief of the Ngatimahangas. The four canoes rounded the bend of the river at 10 A.M., and were paddled swiftly to shore, where the men landed most expeditiously, and rushed upon the shore party, who remained passive. They then retreated hastily, and the shore party followed them in a similar manner, uttering yells of defiance, and displaying the most extraordinary agility, whilst in all they maintained perfect uniformity of action. The scene was a most thrilling one. Immediately afterwards both parties joined, and danced the war-dance, in what those capable of judging from long acquaintance with such exhibitions declared to be first-class style.

The Meeting.

No sooner was the war-dance over than the meeting commenced. The Maoris seated themselves on the grass in a body, some 15 yards distant from the Governor and party. Major Mair interpreted for his Excellency.

Mohi Te Rangaiora was the first speaker, and said: Welcome! Welcome! Come, inhabitants of the other island, to this, to see the people of the Waikato. Come, see the river. There are very few people here. The people are all gone, and there is nothing but the river left. Come and see us, and we will see you. He concluded with a song of welcome, but it is almost an impossibility to interpret their songs, as they are not sang in a manner sufficiently literal to be of any value. The general tenor of the song may possibly be gathered from its concluding sentence, which was, "Very well for you."

Major Te Wheoro next spoke. After the usual welcome, he said: Come under the shadow of our mutual Queen. Come to this island, the natives of which acknowledge the Queen. Come as a light to these two people. Come to administer the laws of our Queen. Come to Ngaruawahia, the meeting of the Horotiu and Waipa. Come to

these two people; it is very good that they should be united. Come and see these Chiefs. We were a great people at one time, though now broken—divided into two parts. Those (the Kingites) have gone into a crooked path. Come to the centre of Waikato. Come, illustrious stranger. Te Wheoro also concluded with a song, in the chorus of which all the natives joined.

The Rev. Wi Patene then rose, and delivered himself as follows: O Governor, salutations to you. Come, the parent of two races. Come to Ngaruawahia to see the people of this place. The Waikato was once a great people, united, but evil days came and they were severed. The Queen is the parent of both races, Maori and European. All the people present knew that the work of the King party was evil, and they remained loyal. Come and be parent for these people of the Waikato who are separated. Queen Victoria is the only parent.

Te Raihi, of the Ngatihana tribe, a near relation of William Thompson, said: The Queen has sent you as a light to guide both races. Come to the Waikato. The people of the Waikato have disappeared. Now there is nothing left but the place, and it is covered with wooden houses. It is their own fault—they rose up against the Queen. Europeans and natives both are living together in peace in the Waikato now. Governor Bowen is gone away, and although there were troubles and difficulties in those times, no evil arose in those days. I welcome you here.

Pikia (one of the natives who fought against us at Rangariri) said: Come and see Waikato. For you to come to see the two tribes is good, good, good. Come to be a parent. I hope you will be a good parent. Here the two tribes are lying down together. If you desire to be a parent for both of these tribes, what evil is there in that?

The Rev. Hamiora (Wesleyan minister) said: Come and straighten the crooked stick and unite the two people. Come with the power of the Queen to the Waikato. Welcome, Governor. Potatau wished Maoris and Europeans to be one people; trouble came and separated them. The Queen sent her Governors here to make both people one. Troubles arose, which kept them apart. Come and put an end to all our troubles.

Te Kawena, of Aotea, gave a song of welcome, and concluded by saying: Come, my loving parent, sent by the Queen, come and unite the two races. We have been united from the days of Governor Fitzroy to now. Welcome! welcome!

Major Te Wheoro then read an address from the friendly natives to the Governor, of which the following is a translation:—"Come "here, James Fergusson, Governor, to your friend, the other Go- "vernor! Welcome! Come in the sovereignty and authority of "the Queen, which she has delegated to you. Come to see those "tribes who live in this island. We are under the shadow and pro- "tection of the Queen, where we have been from the times in which "the old Chiefs who are now departed from us were. In those days "certain things were done and arranged. Come and see these Maori "tribes, and see their Chiefs. Divisions have troubled the Waikato; "but we are dwelling here in the Waikato with our European neigh- "bours. It is desirable that we should live together in love and "peace, the same as the elder and younger brother—in peace and

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" quietness. We are gratified by seeing you here, as the representa-
" tive of both races, at this place, which is the junction of the Waipa
" and Horotiu. After their confluence they are called the large river
" of the Waikato, and we are similar to these two rivers ; we shall be
" united by one thing—the law. Here, there is the tomb of an old
" Chief known as Te Wherowhero, who was one of those who upheld
" the authority of the Queen. This is a large tribe—the Waikato
" family. There were a large number of Chiefs of these people—
" thence is that ancient saying of, ' Waikato with the hundred Chiefs.'
" The Waikatos were a family of great people, and did important
" things in this country. Their tribes were instructed in cultivating
" land, and in other things, in the days when the old men were
" living. After those old men had departed, others arose, and they
" altered the state of affairs, and trouble arose all over the country,
" and blood was shed. Then the tribes were dispersed, and many of
" them went away, and they now call themselves Hauhaus, and their
" lands were taken from them. Those people of the Waikato whom
" you see here are those who adhered to the things that had been
" arranged by the Queen—the Queen's laws, which are to protect
" both races which are living in this island. This island has been
" hidden in clouds, but by the wise administration of the Ministers of
" the present Government these clouds have been blown away. My
" desire is that there should be peace, and that these relations of ours
" who are separated should live in peace. You have come here for
" the first time as a stranger, but you have come to be a torch to
" light us—that is, your people of both races—to straighten things
" that are crooked, so that hereafter it may be said that things are
" not crooked, but straight ; that there may be no bad feeling between
" these races, and the land may be cleared for cultivation, and our
" people's thoughts be diverted to ploughing up land, so that all things
" which the Government may desire to carry out in this island may
" be carried out. We are very much gratified with your having come
" up here to visit us.—Come, O Governor, to see your people of both
" races—Maoris and Europeans. Come to be a kind parent to us, so
" that there may be peace in this island, and that the tribes may be
" united as one people during the whole of your administration.
" May God protect you during the time that you are here. We
" feel grateful to the Queen, who has sent you to be a parent to the
" people of both races in this island. Greetings to you and Lady
" Fergusson and to your children, and we wish you happiness. Come,
" illustrious stranger ; my child has drawn you hither from the distant
" heavens. Come, with the Governor of Tasmania. Although he is
" Governor of that island, still there is but one law for that island and
" this, and one Queen over all. Come, as a guest to see this people.
" Greetings to you."

His Excellency then delivered the following speech, which was interpreted to the natives by Mr. Mackay :—

Major Te Wheoro and friends.—I am rejoiced to come among you and see the loyal members of the Waikato tribes who have been our friends in all times past. You do not see the Governor for the first time ; it is not so long since my distinguished predecessor came among you and encouraged you in your loyalty, and spoke to you the good

will of the Queen. I come among you to say the same words and to thank you for your loyalty and good service, and assure you of the continued friendship of the Government towards you. I am sorry, indeed to see, what some of you have referred to, the small number of those who represent this country. The causes of this sad division are not unknown to me. I will say one word to you who are our friends, and one word to those who are separated from you. You live among us; you know our laws and you know our ways, and that the Government desires to do justice, to secure to you what belongs to you; and that you are protected by our laws as well as the Europeans. There are many good things that we bring—greater comforts, and better clothes and food for your children; instruction, which is good for us all to know. We desire that you should receive all the good that we can bring you, and that you should live long and maintain your numbers side by side with the Europeans. But I am sorry to say, that if we bring you good, there is much evil that we bring too. I pray you to resist the temptations to evil that came with us; I pray you to resist the temptation of drinking to excess; and I pray the Chiefs to dissuade their people from giving way to this evil, for if the Maoris indulge in the drink the Europeans sell them, they will perish more surely than they will by the gunpowder. Then I ask you to send the children to school to learn the good sense we can teach them, in order that they may be fit to take care of themselves and their property when they come to man's estate: then we shall respect each other and live at peace. You see that when a fine body of your own men stand beside us with arms in their hands, they rank with the English soldiers, who are so well known all over the world. I am glad to see your distinguished Chiefs wearing the same uniform and swords as ourselves, and, like us, bearing the commissions of the Queen. And now I will say one word about your brethren beyond the boundary. I am very sorry there should be divisions among you, and between us and them. I should like that the good that we can do should be extended all among the Maori people. You know that you have many advantages that they lose from being beyond our Government; but we must give time, and the good time will come by-and-by. If they prefer their isolation, we do not seek to drag them from it. When one comes out, as some have done who are here to-day, they find a welcome as a friend; but when there has been a great division—when the earthquake splits the ground—the parts do not come together again in one day; but when the wind has blown and the rains fallen upon the place for years, the sides will wash together and become united. But be sure of this: as surely as that great river flows to the sea, so surely will civilization and Christianity spread and be extended, not only over all this country, but over all the world. It is better for us to live on its banks and be benefited by it, than to be swept away before it. But we desire to live in peace; and I say to you the words which the Patriarch said to another when they differed about the land, "Is not the land before thee? let there not be strife "between me and thee, for we are brethren."

His Excellency C. Du Cane, Governor of Tasmania, in acknowledgment of the references made to himself in the address from the Maoris, said: I am very glad to meet you all here to-day, and thank

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you very much for the words of welcome you have spoken to me. I have come from a country some distance from this, but, as your address has said, we live under one Queen. I have listened with pleasure to the excellent words of advice spoken to you by Governor Fergusson. I think you cannot do better than follow them—every word of that advice; and I cordially echo his hopes that all divisions may cease amongst you. I have only in return to wish all happiness and prosperity to the district of the Waikato.

His Excellency Sir James Fergusson called for three cheers for the Queen, which were most heartily given, as were also the cheers called for his Excellency. Cheers were given for his Excellency Governor Du Cane, Mr. Mackay, and Dr. Pollen.

Presentation of Address.

In the afternoon, an address from the settlers of the electoral district of Waikato was presented to his Excellency by Major Jackson, who was accompanied by the following gentlemen, who represented the various districts:—Captain Brockett, and Messrs. Tisdall, Leslie, Hill, Runciman, and Inniss. The presentation was made in the billiard-room of the Delta Hotel, which was crowded at the time. The address was as follows:—"To his Excellency the Right Honourable "Sir James Fergusson, Baronet, a Member of Her Majesty's Most "Honourable Privy Council, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in "and over Her Majesty's Colony of New Zealand and its dependen- "cies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c.—May it please your "Excellency: The representatives of the several districts of the "Waikato assembled at Ngaruawahia are desirous of welcoming "your Excellency on this your first visit to the Waikato since your "assumption of the office of Governor of New Zealand. They feel "that during your Excellency's term of office the Colony will, by "wise administration of its affairs, make vast strides towards the "front rank of those appendages to the British throne which com- "pose the colonial empire. They are convinced that native affairs "must be judiciously administered, otherwise the vast expenditure "that is contemplated on public works will prove of comparatively "small benefit. They desire to thank your Excellency for the digni- "fied position you have assumed towards those natives who still refuse "to submit to the authority of Her Most Gracious Majesty. They "wish your Excellency and Lady Fergusson long life and happiness, "and hope that you both may have cause in after life to look back "with pleasure to the time of your residence in New Zealand."

His Excellency replied in the following terms:—I have to offer you my sincere thanks for the reception accorded to me on the occasion of my first visit to the Waikato. Many of the gentlemen present have attended at great trouble and inconvenience, owing to the distance at which they reside from this place. There is little now left for a Governor to do; but it is, nevertheless, a great encouragement to find the settlers rally round me. I am not surprised that reference should have been made to the conduct of native affairs, as many of you have suffered considerable risk of loss of life and property. We have to look to you, the settlers, to save the Colony much risk by temperate conduct. I am glad that in this respect you have not given offence,

NEW ZEALAND.

but that, in the highest sense, the Colony has reason to be grateful to you. I am also glad that you appreciate the attitude I have assumed towards the natives. It is, however, entirely owing to the advice of my Ministry, which I believe to be most wise and judicious. As I publicly stated to-day, I believe that a good time is coming; but its arrival cannot be hastened, and can result only from prudent administration. It will be exceedingly pleasing to me if, during the years I retain office as Governor, the old breaches which exist between the two races are healed. Others will have borne the labour during the heat of the day, and it will be a great privilege if I preside over the affairs of the Colony at the time of the accomplishment of this desired object. I trust the public works which are in progress will do much good, and that those who have had the risks during times of trouble will be rewarded. I am paying short visits to the several districts in the Colony, in order that I may be able to fulfil the duties of the office I have the honour to hold. I again thank you for the cordial reception you have given me.

His Excellency, at the close of his reply, received the following gentlemen, who were desirous of an introduction:—Revs. B. Y. Ashwell and L. C. Brady, Dr. Beale, Captains Bockett, Rowe, Rayner, and Steele, Lieutenant Eyre, and Messrs. Tisdall, Siddon, Jones, Holloway, Leslie, Howe, Shiel, Carrington, Cox, Edgecombe, and Robinson.

His Excellency and party left Ngaruawahia for Cambridge at 2.30 P.M., accompanied by a number of the mounted Constabulary Force as a guard of honour, and was loudly cheered on his departure.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 19.

No. 19.

Governor D'ARCY to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Keppel Island, West Falkland Island,
March 14, 1874.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for 1873, accompanied by this Report, for your Lordship's information.

1. Imports and exports by the following Table show a steady rise, and may be taken as indicative of gradual improvement in the pastoral prospects of the Islands, and it is to be hoped these figures will year by year increase; the lands more particularly in the West Island, although all taken up by lessees, will not be fully stocked for some years to come.

A.D.	Imports.	Exports.	Exported Wool.
	£	£	£
1868 - - -	15,744	12,039	4,883
1869 - - - -	18,172	19,184	4,887
1870 - - -	20,596	19,894	6,024
1871 - - - -	23,715	24,692	10,300
1872 - - -	24,441	31,435	18,680
1873 - - - -	36,540	40,386	22,518

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Thus showing in the imports an increase of 12,099*l.* and in the exports of 8,951*l.* during the past year; but the increase in the annual export of wool is considerable since 1870, amounting to 16,494*l.*; and to go further again into figures I observe that the export trade of 1873 shows a considerable increase over 1863, viz.:—

		£
1863.	Exports' value - - -	18,415
1873	„ - - -	40,386
	Increase - - -	£21,971

Likewise is the return of imports favourable for the same period, but not to such an extent, the population having but slightly increased:—

		£
1863.	Imports' value - - -	28,658
1873.	„ - - -	36,540
	Increase - - - -	£7,882

From the above figures it will be seen that the exports have more than doubled, whilst the imports have increased twenty-five per cent.

2. *Legislation.*

The only Ordinances passed in 1873 were—

1. The Registration Amendment Ordinance.
2. An Ordinance to extend to the Colony the Imperial Act, 30 and 31 Vic. cap. 124, "An Act to amend the Shipping Act of 1854."
3. Naturalization Ordinance.

3. *Shipping.*

The tonnage of vessels which took refuge in the Port of Stanley during the year 1873 amounts to 26,518 tons, with crews to the amount of 1,264 sailors, the navigation of the Straits of Magellan having become so well known and frequented by steam vessels of recent years is supposed to be the reason why the traffic of the old route by Cape Horn is slightly lessened, as the following Table will show.

A.D.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Sailors.
1871 - - -	60	29,959	2,329
1872 - - - -	63	30,366	1,675
1873 - - -	55	26,518	1,264

4. *Conveyance of Mails.*

Regular monthly communication would materially conduce to the prosperity of these Islands, inasmuch as many more vessels requiring

repairs would make for the Port. At present, with only eight mails in the year instead of twelve, it necessarily takes five months before an answer can be received from the United Kingdom, and a much longer time from the Continent: this delay throws great responsibility on the master, before he can possibly receive instructions from his owners; he therefore prefers to beat up the 1,000 miles to Montevideo, where the postal communication enables him to receive directions from his owners in three months.

I have taken much interest in this subject, and made many inquiries from seafaring people, and they all agree that the service might be easily performed by a schooner of about 150 registered tons, with a small compound engine of 40-horse power nominal, burning only about 3½ tons of coal per diem, to enable her to avoid the delays incidental to the river harbour of Montevideo, and to steam in the calms, which not infrequently occur in the harbour of Stanley and on the ocean passage.

Let such a schooner be at anchor in Montevideo, coaled and watered, and ready to receive Her Majesty's mails on the 5th of January in any given year, by the 15th she might easily arrive in Stanley, returning with the homeward mails on the 18th, and it might be expected she would again be at anchor on the 28th, giving her ample time to start again on the 5th February, and so on throughout the year, thus securing a monthly communication.

The advantages of a regular monthly communication to the Colony would be numerous; hotels would spring up, and labour would be more abundant. It is well known that many people from South America would visit Stanley for change of air, especially during the constant visitations of cholera and yellow fever, which afflict the towns of the River Plate, provided a commodious vessel of tolerable quick despatch was on the line. I trust that before long one of our leading merchants will see it is his interest to inaugurate this modified steam communication with the world.

It has been computed that the cost of such a vessel will amount to 150*l.* a month; freight, passengers, and the mails will of course be a drawback on this expenditure.

5. *The Government School*

continues to be ably and zealously conducted by Mr. Clarke, whose health, I am sorry to say, is breaking, the climate being too severe for his delicate constitution; the establishment of the Infant School has been a great relief to him of late years, and under Miss King's care it is all that can be wished for.

6. *Pastoral Prospects*

continue favourably to advance from more causes than one, chiefly, I believe, from the great advantage the farmers enjoy, living under a government where the law is revered, but surrounded by governments where the law is powerless, the result is that life and property being secure, the labours and rewards of industry spontaneously revive; the policy of leasing the land to many colonists, instead of to a few capitalists, has worked most favourably; landed property imparting a

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

high sense of independence and self-respect; moreover, it supplies stronger motives for industry, frugality, and forethought than any other. I have recently returned from a tour of inspection, having visited every homestead: the increase to the flocks on an approximation has been ninety per cent., and the wool is of an excellent quality, and will, I hope, appear in the published wool sales quoted under the head of "Falkland Island Wool," and not under that of "River Plate Wool," so as to secure a well-deserved celebrity in the London markets; the superior quality of the wool and the increase is owing to careful shepherding and judicious breeding, and to the fact that the scab is now a curable disease, owing to the tobacco dips introduced by Mr. Bertrand, of New Zealand; to the winters being less severe; and also to the very succulent nature of the grasses, differing from those of Europe; inasmuch that, as they sprout and perish, they manure the ground year after year, raising a mound of decomposed vegetable matter considerably higher than the level of the original grass plant, whereas in Europe the soil only deepens from artificial manure.

A much superior class of shepherd has been within the last two years imported; the Company, Captain Packe, and Mr. Dean have discovered that it does not answer to trust such valuable property to new hands.

From Port Stephens and Pebble Island, Mr. Dean's stations, he received on board the 'Orissa' the year's clip, consisting of bales of wool to the value of five thousand pounds.

The Company's settlement at Darwin, in the East Falkland, is the largest village and ranks next in importance to Stanley; but in the West Island, Port Stephens must be reckoned the most important settlement. Mr. Dean has sunk capital in several well-built houses, wool sheds, and dips; but it is to be hoped that his enterprise will be rewarded before long by the yearly increase in the clip; his station is under the able management of Mr. Hunzicker, an intelligent Swiss gentleman; the position is wild and mountainous; the mounted shepherds by the assistance of their intelligent collie dogs slowly driving before them large flocks of clean sheep along the valleys was an interesting sight not easily forgotten, especially as these flocks represent the wool-growing industry of the Colony; the chief mainstay and the source it is to be hoped of future wealth.

The change which of late years has gradually come over the farmers to raise sheep instead of wild cattle, will tend to the Islands becoming colonized; the former stock requiring constant careful supervision, whilst the latter are better left to themselves; and they only necessitate the hiring of two or three Gauchos once or twice a year, previous to a vessel being expected to call for a cargo of hides.

To exemplify how a living can be made in these Islands by the healthful occupation of farming, I am acquainted with a young farmer who, in his start in life, has been much assisted; he began in 1870 with a borrowed capital of nearly 3,000*l*. He leased but a moderate quantity of land, on which he has erected two houses, with wool sheds, dips, &c., possessing a staff of horses, sheep, and the privilege of killing the wild cattle, as they are from time to time driven into his land by his neighbours; during this time the receipts

over the expenditure have been 1,700*l.*, leaving him, it is true, with a debt of 1,300*l.*, but the owner of a property which would to-morrow fetch far more than the debt; in a few years he will be clear of debt, and it is to be hoped will become a prosperous farmer.

It was pleasing to observe the results of Mr. Cobb's efforts to improve the Company's settlement of Darwin and to better the prospects of their employés; a neat iron church and schoolroom attached has been imported from England. In this building the Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Mr. Yeoman, holds his service, several of the children of the outlying shepherds are boarded in Darwin, and regularly attend the day-school under the tuition of a qualified schoolmaster, whom the Company entertained last year on their establishment; the population of this district has much increased within the last year, and the Scotch shepherds recently arrived are of a superior class to those hitherto imported.

7. *Keppel Island.*

I fear this interesting establishment is about to be broken up, the South American Missionary Society having advertised it for sale, in order to confine their efforts to the new station of Ooseeyia on the south coast of Tierra del Fuego. One hundred and sixty acres around the settlement at Keppel is a freehold, but the Island is held on a barleycorn rent; consequently the purchaser of the freehold, buildings, and stock will, in due course of law, take up a lease from the Government of Keppel Island, containing about eight thousand acres of good pastoral land.

I was much interested at being present on Sunday afternoon, when the Christianized natives of Tierra del Fuego were catechized in English by Mr. Lewis, one of the catechists of the Mission; their answers showed a very fair knowledge of early biblical history; and their behaviour and attention during Divine Service was reverent. The Mission farm is very productive under Mr. Bartlett's zealous supervision, the natives under his teaching have become adepts at fencing, gardening, tending sheep, and in driving on horseback the tame herds of cattle to their pasture grounds; and they are, moreover, from their earliest years, trained to be skilful in the management of a boat.

The settlement on Tierra del Fuego having succeeded so well, and having been productive of so much good, the Mission has in contemplation the necessity of establishing another station on the coast of Tierra del Fuego, in the midst of the Fish Indians, the advantages Keppel presented not being sufficiently weighty to warrant the great expense incurred in its maintenance, and of the schooner, 'Allan Gardiner,' which is also for sale. To give some information respecting the working of the Mission at Tierra del Fuego, I cannot do better than quote an extract of a letter I lately received from the Rev. Mr. Bridges, the manager, relative to the progress made in civilizing the natives:—

"Did you live with us a few weeks you would be surprised how nicely the natives go on — improvement in manners, in mind, in morals, is plainly visible, and for them there is a happy future, if they are preserved from spirits and disease. They are becoming

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

more and more industrious, working overtime in their several gardens, gathering manure, burning refuse, and turning up the soil. They regularly milk their goats, and value them very much. Each one has his day for collecting dressing for their gardens, and values the privilege. Want of means alone confines our hands. The people are rife for receiving the Gospel, and its necessary attendant, order. They attend in great numbers our meetings for prayer and instruction from 9 to 11 daily. Every evening they meet for prayer and singing among themselves."

It becomes a matter of regret that the Society have, in changing its name from the Patagonian to the South American Mission, extended its sphere of action to what may be viewed by many an equivocal field of missionary labour. Some subscribers, it appears, give their money conditionally that it should be spent in carrying out the colporteur system, circulating the Church of England version of the Scriptures, together with Protestant tracts in the Roman Catholic cities of South America, thereby shaking the faith and confusing the minds of a civilized people; when there is at hand in the old field of labour in Tierra del Fuego such an undoubted scope for doing good, lifting, in fact, the lowest class of savage to his own place in the order of creation!

8. *Improvements*

are necessarily limited in the absence of any municipal rate; whatever little is done must come from the one item on the estimates for "works and buildings;" yet, having skilled labour at command, opportunities have not been lost during the past year to make improvements, unattended with expense. The jetty at the dockyard has been extended, enabling passengers to land at any time of tide, by utilizing an old condemned lighter, the property of the Government, for that purpose. During the months of November and cember there is a great want of water in Stanley. The only reservoir is on the west end of the town, and this year the supply became alarmingly low. It was therefore deemed highly necessary to construct one on the east end of the town, which is nearly finished, and will become a great boon to the people in all time to come.

During this year a wall, 320 yards long, round the cemetery has been built by private subscription, the Government doubling the first subscription. The work has a substantial and civilized appearance, especially from the harbour, and is a credit to the community. The wall has been, moreover, pointed within the last few months, and will last now for many years.

When the settlement was first established, thirty years ago, several Roman Catholic families, chiefly pensioners, were located in Stanley by the home Government. An effort was made at the time to build for themselves a chapel. They collected 115*l.*, which was expended in the purchase of an acre of town land; but beyond this nothing was done towards building a chapel, or obtaining the services of a priest: however, during 1873 the Catholics sold the freehold acre, and subscribed a further sum of 150*l.* They were thus enabled, by the assistance of the Government labour, to build a pretty little Gothic chapel, which is quite an ornament to the town (here they meet on

Sundays and on Friday evenings, repeating the beautiful old prayers of their ritual, and I can observe in their bearing and manner an intense delight in the enjoyment of the freedom to worship God in a building of their own); it is to be hoped they will be able hereafter, with the assistance of the Propaganda, to maintain a resident English-speaking priest.

The occasion of the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh has been commemorated by a small obelisk, 10 feet high, built on the very spot where the Prince landed. Some freestone left by a wreck was presented to the Government by Mr. Cobb, the Company's manager, out of which the artificers of the Royal Marines constructed the obelisk, with considerable taste and design, into which a brassing has been let in with the words, "Alfred, 24th February, 1871." This work will, I trust, prevent the honour paid to the colonists by His Royal Highness's visit being forgotten.

On my return from visiting the farms in the West Island, after a seven weeks' absence, I found that the unusually severe equinoctial gales had caused several ominous cracks in the outer wall of the new gaol; not a moment was to be lost in throwing up buttresses, spoiling the architectural appearance of the building, but saving it from the calamity of tumbling down; no blame can be attached to the architect, the calamity is the result of the system on which Government works are necessarily conducted in this Colony where the means are so limited; year by year during the few summer months with interrupted labour the work was commenced, then as each successive winter arrived, the work was topped with tussach grass to prevent the frost from finding its way into the mortar, but apparently this precaution was ineffectual, as the walls evidently were affected by the frost, for they gave way during the severe equinoctial gales early in March of this year, the heavy almost vertical roof, so necessary for this climate, being more than the walls could bear.

8. *General Observations.*

It is to be regretted that these Islands have not profited by the visit and report of a competent geologist; Professor Darwin only paid a hurried visit in 1834, riding from east to west of the East Falkland, but the strata of the West Island has never been reported on; there is an impression in the Colony that a vein of coal runs through the East Island, silver ore has moreover been found in the West Island; to profit by such a survey means will have to be found to make it worth while for a prospector to come so far across the ocean; this desideratum and other requirements, such as a cottage hospital for seamen of the mercantile marine of all nations, who frequently are left here in uncomfortable boarding cottages suffering from frost-bite, or with broken limbs from the falling of spars, might be defrayed by a small ad valorem tax of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on imports other than those articles which may be considered necessary to develop the wool-growing interests, such as tobacco, machinery for presses, &c.; in thus so slightly rating the purchaser to the charges of the Government I have been careful to recommend that the tax should fall upon his redundancies alone.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

A change in the habits of the people has within the last four years been effected by the failure of the sealing trade, which in 1870 suddenly collapsed, the seals having been exterminated; this has had its effect on those colonists who elected to remain; there is less drunkenness and less reckless living. Formerly on a crew being paid off after working on shares, it was a usual thing for the sailors to spend in the public houses in a few days the earnings of a summer season, but now it is a rare thing to meet a drunken man in the streets, and the publicans are doing a poor business; the cessation in drunkenness may also be attributed somewhat to the tax on spirits and wines which was first established in 1870; the merchants and farmers opposed this tax, alleging that it would injure their interests, but this was however illusory, as such a duty inevitably falls on the purchaser.

The paucity of labourers has not made the labourer quite so independent as might be supposed, for although from the absence of competition wages are high—five, six, and seven shillings a day—yet provisions and wearing apparel are dear, compelling the labourer to work continuously, but at the same time keeping him clear of idleness. Unfortunately the price of town land having originally been placed at so high a figure, 100*l.* per acre, single men do not settle here; directly they make a few pounds they leave the settlement for Montevideo, where life is more enjoyable, consequently there is always a deficiency of labour; and as for domestic servants, they are not to be hired; this constant exodus prevents the settlement from extending. House rent cannot be said to be dear, it is about the same as in England, but for some inexplicable reason owners of land, who are for the most part the well-to-do of the place, will not build cottages. The following is a list of the relative prices of provisions, and the other necessaries of life in Stanley and in England, together with the amount of wages paid by the employers of labour, which may be useful information to those who are thinking of emigrating to this Colony:—

RETURN SHOWING A LOSS TO RESIDENT PUBLIC OFFICERS.

Necessaries.	Stanley Prices.	London Prices.	Difference in favour of London.	Remarks.
Coal - -	60*s.* per ton.	30*s.* per ton.	30*s.*	
Flour - - -	4*s.* per stone.	2*s.* 8*d.* per stone.	1*s.* 4*d.*	
Beef - -	4*d.* per lb.	1*s.* per lb.		
Mutton - -	4*d.* „	10*d.* „		
Pork - -	1*s.* „	10*d.* „	2*d.*	
Tea - - -	4*s.* „	2*s.* 6*d.* „	1*s.* 6*d.*	
Coffee - -	1*s.* 6*d.* „	1*s.* „	6*d.*	
Sugar - -	7*d.* „	5*d.* „	2*d.* per lb.	
Bread - -	11*d.*	6*d.*	5*d.*	The quartern loaf.
Butter, salted -	2*s.* per lb.	1*s.* per lb.	1*s.* per lb.	
„ fresh -	2*s.* „	1*s.* 6*d.* „	6*d.* „	Only obtainable in summer.
Beer - - -	1*s.* 9*d.* per bottle.	1*s.* per bottle.	9*d.* per bottle.	
Milk - -	1*s.* a quart.	4*d.* a quart.	8*d.* a quart.	Very scarce in winter.
Fowls - -	10*s.*	4*s.*	6*s.*	
Eggs - -	3*d.* and 4*d.* each.	1*d.*	2*d.*	
Candles - -	1*s.* 6*d.* per lb.	6*d.* per lb.	1*s.* per lb.	

Necessaries.	Remarks.
Firewood -	Very dear and difficult to obtain, consisting of old packing-cases, only to be had at the two stores.
Wearing apparel and boots -	50 per cent. dearer than in England.
Peat fuel -	As expensive as coal: labour being so high.
Men-servants -	5*l.* a month, with board and lodging: chiefly cooks and sailors from the merchant marine.
Women-cooks -	About 5*l.* a month, with board and lodging, including the husband, &c.

A RETURN SHOWING AN ADVANTAGE TO THE IMMIGRANT.

Skilled Labour.	Stanley Wages.	English Wages.	Difference in favour of Stanley.	Remarks.
Shipwrights -	16*s.* 8*d.* a day.	6*s.* a day.	10*s.* 8*d.* a day.	On board ship in harbour.
„ - -	8*s.* 4*d.* a day.	6*s.* a day.	2*s.* 4*d.* a day.	Other than ship-work.
Joiners - -	8*s.* 4*d.* to 12*s.* 6*d.* a day.	5*s.* to 6*s.* a day.	3*s.* 4*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.* a day.	
Masons - -	8*s.* 4*d.* to 12*s.* 6*d.* a day.	6*s.* a day.	2*s.* 4*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.* a day.	
Blacksmiths -	8*s.* 4*d.* to 12*s.* 6*d.* a day.	6*s.* a day.	2*s.* 4*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.* a day.	
Labourers - -	5*s.* to 8*s.* 4*d.* a day.	3*s.* 6*d.* a day.	1*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 10*d.* a day.	

The time has arrived when the medical attendance might be better regulated by extending this civilized essential to the inhabitants residing in the Camp, the present arrangement being distasteful to the medical men, and hard upon the people. At pages 42 and 78 of the Blue Book I observe no less a sum than 997*l.* are annually expended for the maintenance of two resident medical men, the colonial surgeon, and the surgeon in charge of the marines forming the garrison. These gentlemen have very little to do in Stanley, whilst the inhabitants of the Company's freehold in Lafonia, &c., numbering one hundred and fifty, who are all living within an easy ride of Darwin, together with the settlers of the North Camp of this East Island, are quite bereft of all medical attendance.

Your Lordship's predecessor ruled, after some correspondence with the Lords of the Admiralty, that the colonial surgeon and the naval medical officer are entitled to demand a fee of sixpence a mile; but as Darwin is eighty miles from Stanley, the journey results in a fee of ten pounds, more than a shepherd can afford to pay, and which the doctor would rather not undertake, even if the fee was doubled, owing to the risks, exposure, and discomforts attendant on the trip to Darwin and back, especially during the nine winter months of the year, although the Company invariably furnish horses and a guide.

The only apparent way to meet the difficulty would be for the Company to subsidize a medical man of their own to be resident at Darwin, with a scale of fees laid down in proportion to the salaries of the shepherds and other employés. He would not only have an

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

extensive practice in the East Island, but that of the West Island he would naturally command.

In conclusion, I am afraid that I have introduced into this Report matters which have little to do with the Blue Book Report, my apology must be that I am anxious that those who are thinking of colonizing this remote settlement, at the fag end of the world, should have a more correct idea than the public hitherto seem to have had of it, seeing that there is no subject in which misapprehension and fallacies are more easily propagated, or with more fatal success than in reference to the resources and advantages of the numerous dependencies of the United Kingdom, which are spread over every region of the American, African, and Australian continents and islands; and should I have succeeded in aiding the colonization of these Islands by judicious regulations and vigilant superintendence, I shall have performed a task inferior to none in the extent of its scope and the magnitude of its results.

According to the regulations, the vaccination return of the year accompanies this Report.

Return showing the number of children vaccinated during the year 1873:–

Children over 3 years old.		Children under 3 years.		Total.
Male.	Female.	Males.	Females.	
1	0	6	2	9

I have, &c.,
(Signed) G. D'ARCY, Governor.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

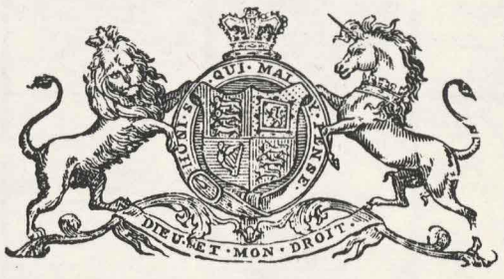
PAPERS

RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

PART I.—1875.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
1875.



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1875.

[*C.*—1183.] *Price* 1*s.* 1*d.*

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NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 1.

Governor Sir STEPHEN J. HILL, C.B., K.C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House,
Newfoundland, November 30, 1874.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Newfoundland for the year 1873, and have much pleasure in stating that the present condition of the Colony is most prosperous.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

JAMAICA.

No. 2.

Governor Sir WM. GREY, K.C.S.I., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD,

King's House, August 22, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Colony of Jamaica for the year 1872–73, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WM. GREY.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 2.

REPORT ON THE JAMAICA BLUE BOOK FOR 1873.

Legislation.

Thirty-seven laws were passed during the year. Of these the following are the most important:—Law 4 of 1873. "A Law to "vest in the Court of Chancery jurisdiction to deal with the Custody "and Management of Idiots and Lunatics, and their Estates in this "Island, and to amend the Practice in Proceedings in Lunacy."

Until the passing of this law there were no statutory provisions whatever in Jamaica on the subject of lunacy. The Court of Chancery had jurisdiction to issue writs de lunatico inquirendo, and the Governor, under a special delegation from the Crown, could provide for the custody of the person and property of lunatics when so found by inquisition, but in consequence of the absence of all legislative enactments on the subject of lunacy, there was great difficulty in putting the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery and of the Governor into operation; and in fact there did not exist any sufficient means for the due protection of the persons or property of lunatics.

The scheme of this law is to vest in the Court of Chancery the whole jurisdiction over the persons and property of lunatics, and to provide a simple machinery for ascertaining the fact whether any alleged lunatic is or is not a lunatic; and if a lunatic, for managing his property for his benefit. The law is mostly founded upon the

JAMAICA.

Imperial Statute 34 Vic., cap. 22, Lunacy Regulation (Ireland) Act, 1871.

The inquiry into the fact of alleged lunacy may be either with or without a jury. The alleged lunatic is entitled to trial by jury if he demands it, unless the Court of Chancery be satisfied by personal examination of the alleged lunatic that he is not mentally competent to form a wish for an inquiry before a jury. If the trial is to be with a jury, the trial must be at a circuit court; if without a jury, the trial may be either at a circuit court without a jury, or before the Court of Chancery. The mode of trial is to be decided in each case by the Court of Chancery.

Law 6 of 1873. A law to render more effectual an Act of Parliament made in the twenty-first year of the reign of King James I., intituled "An Act for the General Quest of the Subjects against "all Pretences of concealment whatsoever."

This law bars the rights of the Crown to land after an adverse possession of sixty years. The law is taken from, and is in almost the same words as, the Imperial Statutes 9 Geo. III., cap. 16, sec. 24, and 25 Vic., cap. 62.

Before the passing of this law there was in fact no Statute of Limitations against the Crown except the local Statutes 4 Geo. II., cap. 4, and 14 Geo. III., cap. 5, which under certain specified conditions bar the right of the Crown to land that has been occupied for seven years.

Under this law the rights of the Crown are now barred in the same time as in England, except when the two local Statutes (which are still in force) come into operation.

Law 8 of 1873. A law to enable the Governor to issue commissions of inquiry with special powers.

Previous to the passing of this law special commissions of inquiry issued by the Governor had not powers sufficient to enable them to compel the production of evidence concerning the subject of the inquiry, and as it was very desirable that such powers should exist, this law was passed for the purpose of giving them.

It empowers the Governor to appoint from time to time one or more commissioners to inquire into the conduct or management of any department of the public service, or of any public or local institution, or into the conduct of any public or local officers, or into any matter as to which an inquiry would be in his opinion for the public welfare.

Power is also given to the Governor to fix the scope of the inquiry; and to the Commissioners to make rules for the conduct of any such inquiry.

This law does not give the Commissioners any judicial duties, or powers. Their duty is merely to take evidence, and to report for the information of Government upon the subject matter of the Commission.

Law 9 of 1873. A law to lessen trade licence duties, and to amend the law relating thereto.

The great improvement which has taken place in the state of the finances of the Island since the trades licence duty was first imposed in 1867, has rendered practicable the reduction of these duties by one half, and the appropriation of the remaining half to sanitary or other useful local purposes, for the benefit of the parish in which the duty is collected.

Law 12 of 1873. A law to amend the "Alien's Law, 1871."

This law is founded upon 35 & 36 Vic., cap. 39, sec. 3; but is somewhat wider in its scope, and more complete in its provisions than the English section.

The practical effect of this law is to provide that Law 16 of 1871, which allows aliens to hold land in Jamaica (and which is the same as part of the Imperial Statute 33 Vic., cap. 14), shall not prejudicially affect any interests existing at the time of the passing of Law 16 of 1871.

Law 13 of 1873. A law to provide an allowance for military officers in lieu of exemption from certain import duties.

One of the provisions of Law 11 of 1867, which law imposes import duties, exempted from duty supplies imported for the use of the military staff and regimental messes in the Island.

This law, passed at the suggestion of the military authorities, substitutes the following fixed allowance to all officers of Her Majesty's army serving in Jamaica in lieu of the exemption from duty under Law 11 of 1867, viz.:

	s.	d.	
To the officer commanding the troops in Jamaica and its dependencies, not being under the rank of colonel.	10	6	per day.
To regimental lieutenant-colonels and officers of corresponding relative rank.	3	6	"
To regimental majors ditto - - - -	3	0	"
To captains and ditto - - - - -	2	6	"
To lieutenants, sub-lieutenants, and ditto -	2	0	"
To the brigade major - - - - -	3	0	"
To the garrison adjutant - - - -	2	6	"

Law 14 of 1873. A law in aid of, and to amend, Law 6 of 1867.

Law 6 of 1867 established a Board of Health in each of the several parishes of the Island, and gave these Boards various powers for the due execution of the duties of a Board of Health; but it made no provision for the payment of the necessary expenses of the Boards, which were left to be provided for, when provided for at all, by the Annual Appropriation Acts, out of the general revenues. The Law now under report was passed to supply this defect. It enables the local Board of Health of each parish to levy a rate for the payment of the expenses incurred by the Board for sanitary purposes.

Rates collected under this law are to be paid into the treasury, and all expenditure by the Boards out of the proceeds of the rates requires the authority of the Governor.

This law also enables the Boards of Health to divide the parishes into sanitary districts, and to appoint Commissioners of Health for the inspection and control of such districts.

Law 15 of 1873. "A Law to amend the Law relating to Partition."

The first eleven sections and the sixteenth section of this law are the same as the Imperial Statute 31 & 32 Vic., cap. 40.

These sections enable the Court of Chancery in a partition suit to direct a sale of the land instead of a division, when a sale would be more beneficial than a division, although some of the parties may not assent to the sale. It also simplifies the procedure in suits for partition.

Sections 12 to 15 are taken from similar provisions in Law 8

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of 1873, and simplify the procedure before Commissioners appointed in a partition suit by the Court of Chancery.

Law 16 of 1873. A law to amend the law relating to the transfer of cases from Petty Sessions to District Courts.

Any person brought before the justices in petty sessions, charged with having committed any offence within the jurisdiction of the justices, has the right to require that the hearing and determination of the case shall be transferred from the Court of Petty Sessions to the District Court. But as this right could not be exercised until the justices were assembled and prepared to hear and determine the case, needless delay was often caused when a defendant claimed the exercise of this right, and excessive delay was always caused whenever, as is too often the case, the petty sessions were adjourned from two justices not attending on the day of meeting, or from any other cause. The exercise of this right by an accused person in the face of the justices, and when they were sitting prepared to try the case, was also a disagreeable incident.

This law provides that the defendant's demand for the transfer of the case must be made to the clerk of Petty Sessions on the first appearance of the accused to answer the information or complaint. This officer gives the requisite orders without requiring the presence of any other justice of the peace. The clerk of Petty Sessions, it is to be remembered, has the powers of a justice of the peace, though he takes no part in the judicial trial of cases.

Law 17 of 1873. "A Law to facilitate the Sale and Transfer of "Encumbered Estates."

This law is a consolidation of, and is for the most part in the same words as, the Imperial Statutes 17 & 18 Vic., cap. 117; 21 & 22 Vic., cap. 96; 25 & 26 Vic., cap. 45.; 27 & 28 Vic., cap. 108.

It provides an Encumbered Estates Court in Jamaica, constituted of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court sitting alone; and this Court has all the powers and jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery.

The effect of the law will be that the Encumbered Estates Court in Jamaica will have the same jurisdiction in Jamaica as the West Indian Encumbered Estates Court has in Jamaica under the Imperial Statutes, and it will be at the option of persons commencing proceedings to choose whether they will sue in the London Court or in the Jamaica Court.

As a small property which would not stand the expense of litigation across the Atlantic may require the machinery of an Encumbered Estates Court as urgently as a large one; and as there can be no reason why this particular sort of legal procedure respecting land should be prohibited in any case from being conducted where all other sorts of legal procedure respecting land are conducted, namely, in the Courts of the place where the land is situated, this grant to the local Court of a concurrent jurisdiction with the London Court is a very reasonable arrangement in all cases, and is an arrangement indispensable to justice in the case of properties not being of great value.

Law 18 of 1873. "A Law to amend the Law relating to future "Judgments and Recognizances."

Until the passing of this law a judgment registered against a debtor became a lien on his land, and as judgments were often allowed to remain for years unexecuted, or without any attempt to

take proceedings for the sale of the land so affected, the result was to impede the transfer of land, and to put unnecessary risks in the way of purchasers of land.

This law, which is founded upon the Imperial Statutes 27 and 28 Vic. cap. 112, does not affect the right of a judgment creditor to proceed against a debtor's land, but it prevents judgments from affecting land until the land is seized in execution, or proceedings for a sale are commenced.

Law 19 of 1873. "A Law for promoting the Revision of the "Statute Law, by repealing certain Acts and Laws which have ceased "to operate or have become unnecessary."

Since the commencement of regular legislation in Jamaica in the year 1681 there has been no attempt to arrange or consolidate the Statutes. Nothing had ever been done to assist the student of Statute law beyond this, that when the first two volumes of the authorized edition of the Statutes at large were published, those Statutes that had expired or been repealed or disallowed at the time of the publication of these volumes were omitted. Nearly all the subsequent Statutes stand in the Statute Books as they were passed, the repealed, disallowed, expired, spent, obsolete, and otherwise inoperative Statutes and portions of Statutes, standing without distinction side by side with the Statutes or portions of Statutes in force.

This state of the Statute Book was rendered even more inconvenient than it would otherwise have been by the change, in the year 1866, in the constitution of the Government and Legislature of the Island.

That change and the alteration of the law consequent thereon rendered inoperative a large mass of unrepealed Statutes. The change of Constitution, also, often left it doubtful how far particular Statutes were rendered inoperative.

Besides the confusion and obscurity of the Statute Book from these causes, copies of the Statutes have become so scarce that it was almost impossible to procure a complete set of the Statutes.

Under these circumstances, a Commission, composed of the Attorney-General and Mr. Alan Ker, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, was appointed in September, 1871, to examine and report upon the Statutes, with a view to the publication of a new and revised edition.

In April, 1872, the Commissioners, after a great amount of labour bestowed on this troublesome task, made a most valuable Report, and recommended in substance—

1st. That a large number of Statutes, specified in Schedules which accompanied the Report, should be repealed.

2nd. That after such repeal, a new edition of the Statutes should be published, containing only the Statutes then in force.

3rd. That after such an edition should have been published, the Statutes should be consolidated by a series of consolidating laws.

The law under Report has been passed in accordance with the first recommendation of the Commissioners. It follows closely the precedent set by the Imperial Statute Law Revision Acts, with this difference—Acts that are spent, that is to say Acts which have had all the operation which it was intended they should have, but have never been repealed, are omitted from the English revised edition of the Statutes, but are not repealed by Act of Parliament. In

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the Jamaica law this class of Statutes is specifically repealed. Thus by the plan that has been adopted here no question is left to depend on the judgment of the compilers of the revised edition.

The Statutes repealed are those proposed for repeal by the Commissioners, except that in a few cases alterations have been made in consequence of a reconsideration of the subject of the Statute or in consequence of the legislation of 1872 subsequent to the Report.

This law leaves all the operative Statute law exactly as it was, but it removes a mass of inoperative Statutes, which were either technically in force, or as to which it was doubtful whether they were in force or not. This law in fact simply ascertains what Statute law remains now really operative.

A chronological table, on the pattern of the table prefixed to the revised edition of the Imperial Statutes has been published; and the way is now clear for the publication of a revised edition of the Jamaica Statutes and then for a consolidation of the Jamaica Statute Law.

Law 20 of 1873. "A Law to abolish the Distinction as to Priority "of Payment which now exists between the Speciality and simple "Contract Debts of deceased Persons."

This law is in precisely the same words as the Imperial Statute 32 & 33 Vic., cap. 46; and it puts an end to the right of priority hitherto enjoyed by speciality over simple contract creditors, in the administration of deceased persons' estates.

Law 21 of 1873. "A Law to constitute Courts of Inquiry to "inquire into certain charges against Masters, Mates, or Certificated "Engineers of British Ships and into Casualties affecting Ships."

The object of this law is to create a tribunal for carrying out the provisions of the Imperial Statutes, the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, and the Merchant Shipping Act Amendment Act, 1862, with respect to the cancelling and suspending of masters', mates', and engineers' certificates.

Law 2 of 1869 was passed with a similar object, but a doubt was expressed whether the law did effectually provide for the carrying out of the provisions of the Imperial Statutes. The doubt was caused by the omission in Law 2 of 1869 of any reference to the Merchant Shipping Act of 1862.

The law now under Report repeals Law 2 of 1869 and substantially re-enacts its provisions, and puts an end to all doubt by expressly reciting in the preamble the sections of the Imperial Statutes which it is the chief object of the law to carry out.

The law also authorizes inquiries into casualties affecting British vessels irrespective of any question respecting the cancelling or suspending of masters' or mates' certificates.

Law 23 of 1873. "A Law in aid of 25 Victoria, chapter 23."

The Jamaica Statute 25 Vic., cap. 23, authorizes the Governor to prohibit by proclamation the export of arms and ammunition of war, but special means and facilities for enforcing such proclamations and for punishing persons guilty of breaches of such proclamations did not exist, in consequence of such means and facilities having been originally given only by certain Statutes of limited duration, which have expired. The consequence might have been at any time inconvenient.

This law supplies this want.

This law also imposes a penalty of 50*l.* on every person who shall be concerned in any attempt to evade the provisions of a proclamation prohibiting the export of arms, &c.

Law 24 of 1873. "A Law to provide for a public supply of Water "in Parishes requiring the same."

There are many parts of the Island of Jamaica where there is a deficient supply of water from natural sources, arising not from too small an annual rainfall, but from the porous nature of the soil, and the geological formation of the underlying rock. A very large proportion of the water that falls from the clouds upon the high lands passes in deep underground channels along the greater part of its course to the sea. Hence in some extensive tracts of country artificial tanks, generally of small size and constructed of masonry, are in necessary use, which in nearly all cases are private property.

In other parts of the Island, though small ponds are not rare, droughts are frequent, and when they occur, in the absence of all artificial provision for storing water, the results are sometimes extremely distressing and indeed calamitous. The vast artificial reservoirs known in India by the name of tanks, but being in fact large and deep artificial ponds or lakes never dry, are here unknown, and there are very few wells. It may be said that whilst persons of means sufficient to provide some sort of water work for their own domestic wants, and for their own cattle, or sugar or coffee works, are seldom in any part of the Island in distress for want of water, the masses often suffer the greatest distress from this want, which, however, by combination they might easily avoid.

This law enables the Municipal Board of any parish, under authority from the Governor, to construct public tanks, to sink wells, to make waterways, to alter or regulate the course of any river (not being navigable), stream, or watercourse, in such manner as may be deemed necessary for the supply of water to districts in want of such supply. In one way or another the water so supplied is to be charged for to those who use it, and the design is to make all such works self-supporting; any deficiency is to be made good from the parochial rates.

The Governor is authorized, on application from a Municipal Board, to advance money from the general revenue for the construction of such works as these; to be repaid from the rates, which will be increased for this purpose when necessary.

The Municipal Boards have power, subject to the Governor's approval, to make rules for the order, government, and use of these works.

This law also provides for the punishment of persons who injure the waterworks, or defile the water therein, or steal the water.

Law 25 of 1873. "A Law to set apart the public square in Spanish "Town, with the public buildings and public lands in and around the "same, for the purposes of a College."

This law vests in the Colonial Secretary, for the purposes of a college, the public square in Spanish Town and the public buildings around it.

These buildings are those formerly used as the official residence of the Governor, and as the chambers of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, under the old constitution; also those formerly

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used by the Supreme Court and by the Government Secretariat which have been both transferred to Kingston.

Law 26 of 1873. "A Law in aid of and to amend the Habitual "Criminals Law, 1870."

This law amends the Habitual Criminals Law of 1870, and, except Section 4, is taken from the Imperial Statute 34 & 35 Vic., cap. 112.

The amendments deal with matters connected with the carrying out of the Law of 1870, such as the photographing of prisoners and the conviction, punishment, and supervision of habitual criminals.

The most important amendment is probably the one contained in Section 6, which requires habitual criminals, under the supervision of the police, to notify their residence and to report themselves periodically to the police.

Law 27 of 1873. "A Law to prohibit, in certain cases, the holding "of Wakes and other Assemblages of a similar nature."

This is another law passed on sanitary grounds.

It is a common practice amongst the peasantry and lower classes of Jamaica to hold what are popularly known as wakes over the bodies of their dead. A wake is an assemblage of persons who sit up all night singing hymns over a dead body.

This practice, although disagreeable to those in the neighbourhood of the place where a wake is held, is not usually mischievous; but during the prevalence of a contagious epidemic, in case of death from the disease, the holding of a wake is conducive to the spreading of the epidemic.

This law empowers the Governor, whenever any contagious or infectious disease shall be prevalent, or it shall appear that any such disease is likely to become prevalent, to prohibit, by notice in the Gazette, the assemblage of more than four persons in any building, or at any place, in or near to which any person is then lying dead, or within any building in which any person has died within four days; provided that in counting for the purposes of this law the number of persons at any assemblage in any building the persons actually residing in such building at the time of the death shall be excluded from computation.

The prohibition does not, however, apply to any assemblage accompanying a dead body that is being carried to the grave, or present during the interment of any dead body.

The Governor may order the prohibition to be applied to any specified parish or parishes, or to the whole Island; and he can revoke such order, or any part of it, whenever he shall think proper to do so.

Law 29 of 1873. "A Law to appropriate certain Taxes and Duties "to Parochial Road purposes, and to consolidate the Law about such "Roads."

This law repeals two laws (25 Vic., cap. 18, and Law 17 of 1869) relating to the management of parochial roads, and re-enacts and consolidates the provisions of those laws, with some important amendments and additions.

The most important change effected by this law is the appropriation to the parochial roads of the Colony of the ancient quit rent and land tax of one penny an acre, and of the tax on landed property, formerly a part of the general revenue.

The old parochial road fund belonging to each parish, arising from four-fifths of the horse and wheel tax, remains exactly as before, and is completely at the disposal of the several Parochial Boards. The remaining fifth, which was transferred from the service of the main roads to that of the parochial roads a few years ago, together with the produce of the two taxes last mentioned, is now carried to the credit of a fund called the Parochial Road Reserved Fund. This fund is appropriated to the parochial roads of the Colony generally, and is under the control of the Governor, to be expended under his authority on special services in connection with parochial roads.

Thus the erection of new bridges, the laying out of new roads, and extraordinary expenses in repairs, wherever such extra expenditure may be most desirable, will now be provided for without trenching upon the ordinary resources of the several parishes.

The Parochial Road Boards are appointed in every parish annually by the Governor.

Law 30 of 1873. "A Law to amend the New Lunatic Asylum "Act, 1861."

This law cures those faults, and supplies those defects, in the Lunatic Asylum Law passed in 1861, which have been found in practice to be the most objectionable or inconvenient.

Under the law of 1861, a lunatic found wandering at large, and without friends, could not lawfully be committed to the asylum unless it was also proved that he was dangerous.

In consequence of this state of the law, there were instances of lunatics wandering at large, homeless and friendless, who could not lawfully be sent to the asylum, and for whose proper treatment the parishes had no means or appliances available.

This law also provides for the reception at the asylum of insane persons from prisons, hospitals, almshouses, and other public institutions.

No person can be received into the asylum from these institutions unless accompanied by certificates, from the medical officer of the institution from which the person is sent and from one other duly qualified practitioner, that the person for whom admission is sought is insane and a fit subject to be confined in the asylum.

The medical superintendent of the asylum has the power to refuse admission to any person who shall appear to him to be an unfit object for admission, and he may send such person, if he be sick or destitute, to the public hospital or the poor-house.

This law for the first time makes each parish chargeable for the expenses of maintenance and treatment of the destitute lunatic patients sent from it to the asylum.

Law 34 of 1873. "A Law to create the Office of Administrator-"General."

The want of some duly authorized officer to take charge of the property of persons who die either intestate or without leaving executors who will act, and who do not leave any relations in Jamaica, has long been a great evil in this community. It has been a common practice for some creditor, or person styling himself a creditor of a deceased intestate, to claim letters of administration as such creditor, when there is no claim by any relative, and then to keep the whole property in the absence of any person entitled to the residue, and

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willing and able to enforce his claims. Sometimes there has been a contest between two or more alleged creditors, each of whom claims administration, with the scarcely concealed intention of keeping whatever he may get. Cases of this sort have occurred more frequently than might be supposed, in consequence of the number of persons in Jamaica who have no relatives here.

In some cases where such facts as above mentioned have come under the notice of the Court of Ordinary, the Crown Solicitor has been appointed administrator. In many cases there were no facts before the Court which would authorize the Court to appoint the Crown Solicitor administrator, instead of a creditor or other similar applicant, and yet there was good reason for not appointing the applicant administrator, if such an appointment could be avoided.

The want, also, of some public officer or department bound to accept all trusts, and certain to carry out efficiently all trusts vested in him or it, has also been long felt.

The object of this law is to obviate this evil, and to supply this want by creating an official trustee, who, under the title of Administrator-General, is bound to administer on the estates of persons—

1st. Who die intestate without leaving a widower, widow, brother, sister, or any lineal ancestor or descendant; or leaving such relative, if no such relative shall take out letters of administration.

2nd. On the estate of all persons who shall die leaving a will, but leaving no executor or no executor who will act, if no such relative as aforesaid of such deceased shall take out letters of administration.

3rd. On the estate of any person who shall appoint the Administrator-General the sole executor of his will, but the Administrator-General cannot act as a co-executor with any other person.

The Administrator-General may be appointed trustee of any real or personal property in the same way that any other person might be appointed trustee.

He may also be appointed guardian of any infant, committee of any lunatic or idiot, and receiver in the Court of Chancery. Subject to a few specified exceptions, the Administrator-General is bound to accept any trust, guardianship, committeeship, administration, or executorship conferred upon him, and he has to give large security (6,000*l.*) for the due performance of his duties.

In cases of endowments as to which the Governor has the power of appointing a trustee or trustees, the Administrator-General will usually be appointed to such office.

The Administrator-General will be subject to the Court of Chancery as any other administrator, executor, or trustee, guardian, or receiver, is subject to the Court, and the Court of Chancery may restrain the Administrator-General from improperly acting or omitting to act, and may summarily require him to pay for any damage that any wrongful act or omission has caused. He will be required to keep a full account of all transactions with respect to all estates vested in or administered by him. His books will be open for inspection of all persons on payment of a small fee. He must pay all moneys that come into his hands as Administrator-General into the Government Savings Bank.

A complete and accurate statement of the payments, receipts, and transactions of the Administrator-General's office and an account of

the fees the Administrator-General has received is to be furnished to the Governor by the Administrator-General every year.

Provision is also made for the audit of the accounts.

The Administrator-General is remunerated for his services by a commission of 6 per cent. on all payments or distributions of or out of the trust property made by him. This is the remuneration now allowed by the Jamaica Statute 24 Geo. II., cap. 18, to trustees, executors, administrators, and others, for the performance of their duties as such.

It will be seen that the appointment of the Administrator-General in any case is entirely optional with those who have the power of creating the trust. If any other person is preferred as trustee, such other person may be appointed.

This law does not of itself give any trust to the Administrator-General, except in the case of persons who die intestate or without executors who will act, and whose near relations refuse to take out administration. In such cases there can be no doubt that a responsible public officer under efficient supervision, and who finds large security, will be a far better administrator than any creditor or other stranger is likely to be.

Law 35 of 1873. "A Law to consolidate and amend the Law "respecting Pilots and Pilotage."

The law relating to pilots had long been justly complained of as quite inefficient. It neither secured the licensing of skilful and sober pilots, nor provided practicable means of withdrawing the licences of pilots whose incapacity or misconduct was manifested.

Their personal responsibility when their misconduct resulted in the damaging or loss of vessels in their charge was in effect worthless.

The present law is calculated, if properly worked, to remove this evil, and to provide a more efficient and responsible pilot service.

It provides a system for the examination, admission, and superintendence of pilots, better than the system which has hitherto existed.

It empowers the Governor to constitute pilotage and harbour districts, and to appoint a Pilotage and Harbour Board for each district.

The Governor in Privy Council has authority to make general rules for the guidance of the Boards, and general rules to be observed by all pilots, and also to make special rules for any particular Board or the pilots of any particular port, and such rules may impose penalties not exceeding 10*l.* for the breach thereof.

The principal duty of a Pilotage and Harbour Board is carefully to examine candidates for licences as pilots in regard to their nautical skill, local knowledge, and sober habits. They can call in whenever necessary two nautical persons to act as assessors and to assist the Board.

If a candidate passes his examination, the Board grants a certificate of the fact, but the candidate cannot act as a pilot until he has entered into a bond with two or more approved sureties in such amount as shall be fixed by the rules, or if not fixed by the rules such as the Pilotage Board shall fix to answer any damage or expenses caused by his unskilfulness, negligence, or misconduct as a pilot, nor until he has received from the Governor a licence to act, and the Governor may grant or withhold such licence in his discretion.

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A licence has effect from the date on which it is granted till the 31st of December in the year in which it is granted, and it may be renewed annually at the beginning of every year, if recommended by the Pilotage Board.

The Board has the power to suspend the licence of a pilot within its district for such period as the Board may think fit, if the Board after inquiry shall be of opinion that the pilot has been guilty of misconduct or negligence, but the Governor has the power to vary or reverse the decision of the Board. And the Board may report the case to the Governor, who may thereupon, if he shall think fit, revoke the pilot's licence.

Any master or mate of a vessel, after passing the examination and otherwise complying with the provisions of this law, may be licensed to pilot the vessel of which he is the master or mate.

It is believed that this law, when it comes into full operation which it has not yet done, will be found to provide a much more efficient and responsible body of pilots, and a better pilotage system generally, than the Colony has hitherto possessed.

Law 36 of 1873. "A Law to amend and consolidate the Laws "relating to Harbours."

This law replaces and amends various enactments, extending over a period of nearly 200 years, relating to harbours.

It provides for the appointment of harbour masters whose powers and duties are defined, and it enables the Governor in Privy Council to constitute any port or roadstead, &c., a harbour under this law, to define the extent and the boundaries of any harbour, and to abolish any harbour.

All harbour masters, and all harbours, with the buoys, marks, &c., therein, and in the channels leading thereto, are placed under the superintendence of the Pilotage and Harbour Boards established by Law 35 of 1873.

This law also provides for the placing, preservation, protection, and keeping in order of all buoys and marks in the several harbours and channels, and for preventing obstruction or injury to such harbours and channels and for the proper mooring of vessels therein.

As mud ballast is believed to produce fever, it prohibits under heavy penalty the use of such ballast, and it requires that any vessel arriving with mud ballast shall forthwith discharge it at some proper spot.

Law 37 of 1873. "A Law to encourage Maltese Immigration."

This law regulates the introduction into Jamaica of immigrants from the Island of Malta.

Attention was attracted to this subject by a communication from the Chairman of the West India Committee in London to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and by a correspondence between two Jamaica proprietors and the Governor of Malta.

It was represented in these communications that there is in Malta a superabundant population, orderly, industrious, and accustomed to agricultural work in a very hot climate, and that from this community a class of labourers could be obtained who would take readily to the cultivation of the staple products of the West Indies. It was affirmed that many of these people would be willing to emigrate from Malta, if they were made aware of the advantages to be obtained in the West Indies.

In consequence of these representations this law was passed, which

applies to immigrants from Malta the general Emigration Laws of Jamaica, with the following modifications:—

1. Maltese immigrants on arrival are to be indentured for five years, and will be entitled to a return passage after seven years' residence, a right commutable for money payment, or a grant of land, or both.

After two years' service under indenture any Maltese immigrant may release himself from further liability to service by paying to the Agent-General of Emigration 4*l.*, forfeiting, however, thereby his right to a return passage. After three years' indentured service he may commute the remaining period of his indentured service by a money payment of 8*l.*, and after four years' indentured service he may commute it by a money payment of 4*l.*, without in these cases forfeiting his right to a return passage after seven years' residence.

While under indenture, Maltese immigrants will receive wages of not less than 1*s.* 3*d.* per day, and will be provided with detached cottages, the site and description of buildings to be fixed by the Medical and Immigration Departments.

Employers of Maltese immigrants will be required to ration them during such time and according to such scale as may be fixed by the Government.

A cottage for a chapel must be set apart by the employer for the use of Maltese immigrants when required, and the employers of these immigrants are required to pay a small additional capitation tax to support the Roman Catholic priests whose services are required by the immigrants.

Two different objections have been taken to the last-mentioned provision.

On the one hand, it has been contended that the planter at whose desire Maltese immigrants may be imported, and for whom they may work under indentures, ought not to pay a higher capitation charge for them than is paid for other indentured immigrants, and that the extra charge in question ought to fall on the Immigration Fund. On the other hand, an objection has been taken by several persons to the provision for chapels and priests, on the ground that it confers exceptional privileges on labourers who profess the Roman Catholic faith, by providing them with gratuitous religious instruction in their own particular religion, a course which appeared to the objectors inconsistent with religious equality and the principle of disendowment.

Neither objection was considered to be valid. The Maltese labouring class expressly made it an indispensable condition to their consenting to emigrate, that they should have the services of Italian priests of their own faith provided for them during their sojourn here, and the Government was officially informed that without such a provision there would be no emigration from Malta. On the one hand, it seemed but reasonable that a peculiar charge such as this should fall on the particular employers benefiting by the labour of those who insisted upon its being incurred. And on the other hand, this provision was clearly to be regarded as a part of the compensation which Maltese labourers required in return for their labour. In this view the case was considered to be the same as though peculiar provisions in their favour of any other sort, such, for instance, as extra clothing, or house accommodation, were insisted upon. In no

sense, it was held, could the acceptance of such conditions be regarded as a gratuitous provision of such extras, for it was plainly no more a gratuitous provision of what was demanded than was the higher minimum wages which Maltese immigrants demanded as compared with the minimum wages of Indian immigrants.

Thus the provisions respecting Roman Catholic priests and the payment of such priests have been treated like those respecting food, pay, and all other stipulations on the faith of which the immigrant consents to come under indenture.

And, as the charge for this service will not fall on the public or on any public fund, but will be paid for exclusively by the individuals who import the immigrants, there can be no ground for viewing it as a public endowment to a particular denomination.

Finance.

The year under Report, 1872–73, is the fifth consecutive year in which a surplus of revenue over expenditure has been obtained. The accounts of the year, excluding the immigration accounts, which are always separately treated, show a surplus of 16,520*l.*, exclusive of a sum of 10,236*l.*, which has been invested in securities bought for sinking funds for the eventual redemption of debt.

From this surplus, 6,426*l.* has been applied to the payment of debt by the redemption of debentures which became ripe for redemption, thus reducing the amount of the surplus available for other objects to 10,094*l.* Of this last amount 8,220*l.* is available for special objects, being the surplus over expenditure of special revenue appropriated to particular services (parochial roads, poor rates, &c.), and will be funded for those particular services. The remainder, 1,874*l.*, is available for general purposes.

The following figures give the actual results of the year 1872–73:—

	£
General revenues	421,947
General expenditure	403,411
Excess of general receipts over general expenditure	18,536
Deduct investment in securities, and actual payment for redemption of debt	16,662
Net surplus	£1,874

	£
Appropriated revenue	59,007
„ expenditure	50,787
Surplus	8,220
Total surplus	£10,094

This surplus is shown after charging as expenditure 19,005*l.* expended on special services for roads and works, which expenditure it was intended, in framing the estimates at the outset of the year, to defray from past balances, but which, owing to the unexpected yield of the revenue, has been defrayed from receipts during the year.

Adding the surplus of 1,874*l.*, available from the general revenues of this year, to the sum of 50,919*l.*, being the unexpended balance of surplus revenues of former years, the total sum of 52,793*l.* is available for any special services for which it may be required. Of this amount it has been proposed to appropriate during 1873–74, 37,219*l.* for special services on roads and works, thus leaving 15,574*l.* in the chest available for any further special service.

The immigration fund account is not included in the above figures. The revenue and expenditure for the year were as follow:

	£
Revenue	33,813
Expenditure	69,261

The difference between the immigration revenue and expenditure was defrayed partly by the balance (1,600*l.*) raised during the year of the second instalment of the immigration loan, and the remainder by a temporary advance from the public chest, which has since been repaid from the proceeds of a further loan raised by the fund.

The following Table shows the whole of the Treasury receipts in the year 1872–73, both of revenue and of other moneys, as compared with those of the year immediately preceding.

	1872–73.	1871–72.	More.	Less.
	£	£	£	£
Import Duties and Fees	241,821	224,077	17,744	—
Tonnage Light Dues	2,655	2,905	—	250
Excise Rum Duties	90,555	86,171	4,384	—
Spirit Licences	15,485	15,765	—	280
Trade Licences, Old	630	817	—	187
Ditto, New	3,913	7,203	—	3,290
Land Tax, Old	8,495	8,772	—	277
Ditto, New Property Tax	4,630	4,826	—	196
Poor Rate, House Tax	23,723	24,912	—	1,189
Parochial Road Tax—Horse-kind and Wheels	24,707	24,821	—	114
Dog Tax	171	183	—	12
Post Office	13,867	13,887	—	20
Miscellaneous	29,232	28,022	1,210	—
Stamps	15,171	13,528	1,643	—
	475,055	455,889	19,166	—
Interest on Securities held for Sinking Funds	5,899	4,135	1,764	—
Total Revenue £	480,954	460,024	20,930	—
IMMIGRATION REVENUE.				
Export Duty	17,327	22,686	—	5,359
Capitation Tax, &c.	10,468	9,679	789	—
Interest	1,018	2,175	—	1,157
Contribution from general Revenues for colonization of East Indian immigrants	5,000	—	5,000	—
	514,767	494,564	20,203	—
RECEIPTS ON DEBT ACCOUNT.				
Excess of Deposits in Treasury over Withdrawals	9,499	74,471	—	64,972
Immigration Loan	1,600	13,400	—	11,800
Grand Total Receipts £	525,866	582,435	—	56,569

The continued increase in import duties may be taken as a certain sign of the constant increase of the commercial business of this Colony.

Below is a Table showing the Treasury disbursements of the year under Report, both on account of current expenditure and on all other accounts, contrasted with those of the preceding year.

	1872–73.	1871–72.	More.	Less.
Establishments:—	£	£	£	£
Civil	23,630	23,036	594	—
Judicial	18,571	17,817	754	—
Ditto, District Courts	13,330	13,081	249	—
Revenue	36,815	34,871	1,944	—
Public Gardens Plantations	2,940	1,884	1,056	—
Post Office	14,951	13,563	1,388	—
Ecclesiastical	17,718	18,773	—	1,055
Medical	33,202	28,547	4,781	—
Constabulary	48,188	44,101	4,087	—
Prisons Penitentiary Reformatory	26,726	22,090	4,636	—
Education	19,453	14,574	4,879	—
Miscellaneous	11,075	7,937	3,138	—
Colonization of Immigrants	5,000	—	5,000	—
Military	4,210	3,606	604	—
Roads	49,302	53,576	—	4,274
Buildings	39,683	31,768	7,915	—
Land Expenses	1,472	922	550	—
Pensions	13,561	12,749	812	—
Lighthouses	1,171	1,374	—	203
Harbour Masters	75	103	—	28
Parochial Expenditure	29,062	23,839	5,223	—
Steam communication with New York	3,750	4,583	—	833
Interest, &c., on Debt	40,313	42,745	—	2,432
	454,198	415,539	38,659	—
DISBURSEMENTS OTHER THAN EXPENDITURE.				
Sinking Funds	10,236	4,667	8,569	—
Redemption of Debt from current Revenues	6,426	6,404	22	—
Ditto from Surplus appropriated Revenues	200	300	—	100
Total Disbursements exclusive of Charges on Immigration Fund Account	471,060	426,910	47,150	—
Immigration	69,261	62,269	6,992	—
Grand Total Disbursements £	540,321	489,179	51,142	—

Pensions.

During this year, pensions in compensation for abolition of office were granted to the extent of 660*l.* Superannuation pensions were granted to the amount of 852*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* to officers who retired in usual routine.

Debt.

No loan chargeable to the general revenues of the Colony was raised in the year 1872–73.

But the balance, 1,600*l.*, of the second instalment of the immigration loan, the issue of which was noticed in last year's Report, was taken up. A further sum of 30,000*l.* was raised by the Kingston and

Liguanea Waterworks Commissioners, and a sum of 41,000*l.* by the Rio Cobre Canal Commissioners to meet expenses connected with those works.

During the year, 6,426*l.* of debt, as the debentures became payable, were paid off from the current revenues of the year; 1,174*l.* were paid off from sinking funds falling in, and 200*l.* were paid off from the accumulated surplus of appropriated revenues applicable thereto.

A sum of 10,236*l.* was invested in sinking funds for the eventual redemption of debt, on account of Island loans for general objects; and an investment of 882*l.* was made from the immigration revenues in sinking funds for the immigration loans.

The public debt directly secured on the general revenues stood as follows on the 30th September of each of the last eight years, after making allowance in each year for the sinking funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1866	682,466	11	5
1867	718,952	18	10
1868	706,964	18	0
1869	686,830	9	2
1870	609,505	11	3
1871	591,656	5	6
1872	571,542	1	3
1873	554,492	18	11

The interest paid on debt amounted to 40,413*l.*, being a reduction of 2,432*l.* on the amount paid last year.

The debt secured on the revenues of the immigration fund stood as follows at the corresponding periods:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1866	74,850	6	3
1867	69,138	0	3
1868	64,175	14	3
1869	59,213	8	3
1870	56,138	0	0
1871	84,169	7	0
1872	80,564	16	7
1873	78,283	4	9

In this last year, as has been stated, 1,600*l.* of debentures were issued, and 3,000*l.* of former debt were paid off.

The interest paid on immigration loans during the year amounted to 3,811*l.*

Legislative Council.

Mr. Charles Hamilton Jackson, Island Secretary, was appointed an official member on the 10th June, 1873, and Mr. George Solomon was appointed an unofficial member on the 3rd July, 1873.

Civil Establishment.

The following appointments were made to the College established in Spanish Town:—

Principal: William Chadwick, M.A., Fellow of Corpus Christi,

College, and formerly Mathematical Lecturer of Corpus Christi, Brasenose, and Pembroke Colleges, in the University of Oxford.

Professor Grant Allen, B.A., Merton College, Oxford, formerly Classical Master of Brighton College.

Captain C. J. O'Neill Ferguson, R.E., was appointed Deputy-Director of Roads, and Deputy Surveyor-General. This is a new appointment rendered necessary by the many large public works now in course of construction.

Messrs. D. W. Lillie, T. H. Sharpe, and Richard Carter were appointed Stipendiary Magistrates in the parishes of St. Catherine, St. James, and St. Elizabeth.

Two medical men arrived from England, and were appointed Government Medical Officers.

Land.

Notifications have been issued for commencing proceedings for the forfeiture of 80,957 acres of land, on which the land-tax and quit rents have not been paid for ten years.

Under the law for the recovery from squatters of land abandoned by the proprietors or land without legal owners, five properties, containing 7,664 acres, were recovered by the Government, and 184 squatters were ejected therefrom.

All of these properties as well as three others recovered last year have been advantageously leased to different persons. Five properties, containing 212 acres of land, fell to the Crown in consequence of the owners dying intestate and without heirs. On one of these properties, situated in a district in which there is a scarcity of water, there is a valuable well. This well has been made over to the Municipal Board of the parish for public use. Another of these properties, a house in the town of Black River, has been converted into a Constabulary Station.

Rio Cobre Irrigation Works.

The following remarks on these important works were drawn up by Sir John P. Grant, before he resigned the government:—

"I had hoped that the head works of the Rio Cobre Canal, the trunk line, and the Caymanas branch would have been completed, and the canal opened before the end of the calendar year 1873; but in this I have been disappointed.

"The following is a concise statement of the progress, condition, and prospects of this important work as at close of the financial year, viz. on the 30th September last.

"The foundations of the annicut or dam across the river, the most difficult and expensive portion of the work, were completed, and the dam had been carried to a height of 10 feet above the foundations in all parts, and in some parts much higher. When finished, this structure will be in length, reaching all across the river when dammed up, 320 feet; in height it will be 48 feet above the bed of the river; and in breadth, or thickness, it will be 26 feet at the base and 13 feet at the top. It will contain about 238,000 cubic feet of masonry, besides a mass of concrete. This dam will have suitable sluices and a water cushion. At the date above mentioned, this part of the work

was a little more than half finished, but what remained to be done was comparatively easy.

"Work on the Trunk Canal and Caymanas branch, which are together 10 miles and 40 chains in length, had made fair progress.

"The earthwork on this line was about two-thirds finished, and excavations had been commenced on all the remaining portion, except in two places, each about half a mile in length, where the conveyance of the land to the Commissioners was not completed.

"The masonry works on this line consist of three calingulates (or waste-water weirs), two aqueducts, one culvert, twenty-three bridges, and eighteen falls. Of these eight bridges, one culvert and thirteen falls have been completed, and three calingulates, one aqueduct, and seven bridges were nearly completed.

"The preliminary surveys and the laying out the lines of canal on the Salt Pond, Port Henderson, and March's Pen Branches (which are the three next branches to be commenced), had been finished. The preliminary survey of the Old Harbour Branch had also been made, and the line of that branch had been partially determined.

"The acting head of the Public Works Department, Captain Ferguson, has reported his expectation that the Trunk Canal and the Caymanas branch will probably be completed by the 31st of March next."

Botanic Gardens.

Castleton Garden.—The work of improvement and completion in various parts of this garden was somewhat retarded in consequence of the death of Mr. Kendall, the assistant-gardener in charge. The garden is now in charge of Mr. Jenman, who was selected and highly recommended by Dr. Hooker.

Salangore Sugar-canes.—Many thousand cuttings of this plant were distributed throughout the Island, and it is hoped that during the current year the value of this description of cane, which is reported as highly prized elsewhere, will have been tested.

The collection of plants of sugar-cane has been increased by the receipt of some 40 varieties from Mauritius. Upwards of 20 were canes new to Jamaica, and there are now upwards of 60 new varieties in the collection. About four acres of land have been planted with these new canes, and in a short time great numbers of cuttings will be ready for distribution.

Tobacco.—Applications for seed have been numerous, and more than the limited number of plants in the garden can supply.

Rice Seed.—About 3½ bushels of rice seed were distributed.

Chocolate Cocoa.—Two acres of land are under preparation for planting with the best Trinidad seed, and directions for the culture of this plant have been published for general information.

Nutmegs.—Six hundred plants were ready for distribution, and nearly all have been distributed.

Senna Plantation.—Several hundred acres on the Palisadoes have been sown with senna seed, and 5,000 cocoa-nut plants have been planted out on a part of the same land.

Jalap.—Two acres of land at the Cinchona plantation have been planted with jalap.

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Samples of Jamaica jalap sent to England last year were very favourably reported on.

Assam Tea.—The plants, 800 in number, planted out four years ago, have grown luxuriantly.

Cinchona Plantation.—The trees planted five years ago of the C. Calisaya, C. Succirubra, and C. Pahudiana, are thriving, and range in height from 8 to 20 feet. The C. Officinalis is of slower growth. All these kinds may be considered as fully established and naturalized.

There are now 200 acres in Cinchona, and about 100 acres of forest have been cleared for extending the plantation.

The two conservatories for propagating cuttings and for propagation from seeds have been doubled in size, and have an area of 1,600 square feet. One of these conservatories is capable of striking 800 cuttings at a time.

Analyses of the bark from this plantation were made by Dr. de Vrij, of the Hague. The results were very satisfactory with regard to C. Calisaya, the most important of all Cinchonas, C. Succirubra, and C. Pahudiana, but unfavourable as regards C. Officinalis and C. Micrantha.

In the extension of the plantation, only those species of Cinchona that have been favourably reported on will be cultivated.

Interchange of Plants and Seeds.—Among other plants and seeds received may be mentioned a Wardian case from Kew, containing several Mangosteen plants, and one plant of the Para india-rubber.

From the United States Department of Agriculture six bushels of dry land and irrigation rice seed, and a lot of tree seeds collected in the Rocky Mountains.

Two cases of sugar-cane plants and some palm seed were received from Mauritius.

From Trinidad about 200 species and varieties of plants, new to the Jamaica collection.

Among the contributions from Jamaica were a large quantity of mahogany seed to the Government of Bengal, a case of palms and 29 varieties of sugar-cane to British Honduras; orchids, ferns, and mahogany seeds to Kew; and a case of palms, bananas, and sugar-canes to Trinidad.

Education.

Queen's College.—This institution was opened on the 22nd September, 1873. It is situated in the Government buildings in Spanish Town, described in last year's Report.

The following extracts from the public notification of the opening of the College will explain the terms of admission and curriculum:—

Students.—Students may attend the College either as regular or occasional students. Regular students may enter the College either as non-resident or as resident students.

Fees.—The College fee payable by non-resident students is 12*l.* a year. The College fee payable by resident students is 48*l.* a year. Students intended for the ministry placed in the College by any religious denomination for secular education, will be received as resident students. The College fee payable by such denominational

students will be 30*l.* a year. The denominational students may be placed under private theological tutors, and, if desired, their tutors may reside with them in the College. A compartment of the College will be appropriated for this class of students, and they will have their own table, and will be under special regulations.

Lectures.—The several classes will meet for lectures between the hours of 10 A.M. and 3 P.M. daily, Sundays excepted. Separate class-rooms will be available for the purpose.

Books.—All necessary stationery, and the books necessary for the studies to be pursued by the students during each term, must be provided by them at their own expense, before the term commences. These books will be obtainable at the College.

Entrance.—With the exception of students entering from such educational institutions as by arrangement may transfer their scholars to the College, young men before entering the College must be more than fifteen years of age, and must pass an entrance examination, to be conducted by one or more of the Professors or Masters of the College, and must obtain a certificate of competency in the following subjects:—

English.
Outlines of General History.
Outlines of Geography.
Arithmetic.

Studies.—Lectures will be given on the following subjects:—

Compulsory branch:—

C. English Literature.
C. English Composition.
C. History, Ancient and Modern.
C. One of the Languages marked O.
C. Arithmetic.
C. Geography, Physical and Political.

1st alternative branch:—

A 1. Geography and Conic Sections.
A 1. Algebra and Trigonometry.
A 1. Natural Philosophy.

2nd alternative branch:—

A 2. Moral Philosophy.
A 2. Mental do.
A 2. Logic.
A 2. Political Economy.

And lectures will be given on the following subjects to students requiring them:—

O 1. The Calculus and Applied Mathematics.
O 1. Physical Theory of Acoustics, Light, Heat, and Electricity.
O 1. Advanced course of Mental and Moral Philosophy.

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O 2. Latin.
O 2. Greek.
O 2. Hebrew.
O 2. Modern Foreign Languages and Literature.
O 2. Surveying and Plan Drawing.
O 2. Chemistry.

Degrees.—Of the above subjects, those marked C are compulsory, and a complete course of lectures on each one of them must be attended by all students intending to take a degree. Those subjects marked A 1 and those marked A 2 are alternative, and a complete course of lectures on any subject in either one or other of these two classes of subjects, must be attended by all students intending to take a degree. Those subjects marked O are optional.

For a degree, a student having attended the College for the requisite number of terms, must pass in each one of the subjects marked C, and either in each one marked A 1, or in each one of those marked A 2. Those students who, in passing their examination for this degree, show that they have acquired high proficiency in the subjects in which they have passed, shall obtain a higher degree, called a "Degree of High Proficiency."

Students who have obtained a Degree of High Proficiency may obtain a Degree of Honour, upon passing in the alternative course which they have not taken up for the degree, or in one of the subjects marked O 1, or in any two of the subjects marked O 2, neither of which formed part of their compulsory course. Amongst modern languages, each language shall be considered as one subject.

College Course.—The ordinary College course shall consist of nine terms; but the course may be shortened in the case of students who have joined the College from any educational institution whose scholars may be transferred by arrangement to the College.

If any students so transferred should not have attained the age of fifteen years at the time of transfer, their course of term keeping shall not be considered to commence until they shall attain that age; and special provision will be made for the tuition of such students meanwhile.

Students studying for a Degree of Honour shall be allowed to remain at the College for one or two additional years.

Students who obtain their degree become graduates of the College; and those who obtain a Degree of Honour become Associates of the College.

Occasional Students.—Persons who are beyond the age of eighteen years, without entering the College as regular students may attend any course of lectures or lessons upon any subject or subjects on payment of a fee of 3*l.* for each subject, for every term; and on payment of an additional fee of 1*l.* for each examination, may claim to be examined in such subjects, and to receive a certificate showing what proficiency they have attained therein.

Government Training College.—Three students completed their course at this Institution during the year, and came up for examination for certificates. One of them passed a highly creditable examination, obtaining a first-class certificate, and has been placed in charge of a

school in the parish of St. Andrew. His school is prospering, and he gives great satisfaction to the manager. Another obtained a second-class certificate, and secured at once an appointment as schoolmaster. The third student failed to obtain a certificate.

A competitive examination for admission into the College was held in July, at which the seven most promising candidates were elected, thus raising the number of students in the College to 21, the full number for which there is accommodation.

Elementary Schools.—The year under Report is the sixth since the grant in aid regulations came into effect. The Table given below shows that the increase in the number of schools inspected continues each year.

	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.
First Class - - - - -	1	3	4	6	7	11
Second Class - - - - -	6	20	35	68	94	125
Third Class - - - - -	89	173	206	239	268	274
Exceptional (half grants) - -	88	21	53	47	35	16
Total aided - - -	184	217	298	360	404	426

The increase shown from year to year in the number of schools passing from the lower to the higher classes is a satisfactory indication of the progress that education is making amongst the population.

The Inspector of Schools reports that the number of schools which obtained grants would have been larger, but that, owing to the prevalence of whooping cough and small-pox, or to drought and to scarcity of teachers during the year, some 27 of these schools were not ready for inspection at the appointed time, while ten that received opening grants had not sufficient time to complete the building of their school-houses, and make such other arrangements as were necessary to commence operations. Nearly 500 schools were actually entered for examination.

It will be seen by the Table given below that there has been a decrease in the number of scholars on the books as well as in the average daily attendance as compared with the numbers of last year. This decrease is accounted for by the causes mentioned in the foregoing paragraph. It will, however, be noticed that while the average attendance is less, the amount of grants earned is larger than the amount of the previous year by 1,084*l.* 6*s.*, thus pointing to the fact that the quality of the work has improved, the increase being caused by a larger number of schools having risen from the lower to the higher classes than was the case in the preceding year.

	1871-72.	1872-73.
Pupils on books - -	38,006	37,496
Average daily attendance - -	22,435	22,004
Present at inspection - -	27,761	25,349
School fees paid by parents -	£5,873	£5,812
Grants in aid - - - -	9,897	10,982

The two Government schools at Port Antonio and Charles Town have been in active operation all the year, though they have suffered

considerably in common with other schools from the prevalence of small-pox and whooping cough. They still continue to rank as first-class schools on inspection; and as there are industrial pursuits in connection with the tuition in both schools, they are not only imparting sound practical instruction to the children attending them, but are also, it may be hoped, doing something to imbue them with some sense of the dignity and value of labour.

1,400*l.* was allowed this year for opening grants, which sum was distributed amongst 29 schools. These grants are now made among a fewer number of recipients than formerly in larger sums, so as to enable them to establish good and permanent schools in the neglected districts, for which these grants are specially intended.

The total expenditure of the educational department in each of the last seven years was as follows:—

	£
1866–67	4,622
1867–68	4,120
1868–69	6,243
1869–70	9,189
1870–71	11,778
1871–72	14,573
1872–73	16,266

The following extract from the Report of the Inspector of Schools is of interest, as relating to a class which has not yet been brought under the influence of the department.

"One attempt to provide the means of education for a class of people hitherto entirely neglected, namely, the Coolies, has come under our observation this year, which deserves to be noticed and commended. The Rev. C. F. Douet, in the face of numerous difficulties, has established a school at the Alley, in Vere, exclusively for Coolies, as they continue to maintain a persistent aversion to sending their children to our native schools.

"In the old rectory, which has been repaired and neatly fitted up with suitable appliances, I found several Coolie children who were being instructed in English and Hindostanee by an intelligent Hindoo master, who is employed by Mr. Douet for the purpose. This effort has been started mainly for the benefit of the free and unindentured Coolies, but Mr. Douet finds great difficulty in keeping up anything like a proper attendance, owing to the fickleness and migratory habits of this class of Coolies. Still it was pleasing to notice the great pains Mr. Douet has taken to start this praiseworthy undertaking, while he deserves great credit for his perseverance, notwithstanding the opposition he has had to encounter from the prejudices of the people and from other causes; and it is to be hoped that some other zealous school managers who may be situated in the neighbourhood of estates where Coolies are located will be induced to follow his example. And as the Coolies will not, it seems, avail themselves of the native schools, while it is high time that something should be done to educate the rising generation among them, I think it would be well if the Government would offer some special or extra inducements to any enterprising manager who will undertake to establish schools for their benefit.

At the same time, I still entertain the opinion that the estates employing these people should consider it their duty to help in providing suitable schools for the children of their Coolie labourers; and further, that it would be in the end an advantage to the estates to do so."

Immigration.

Four ships arrived during the year 1872–3 with Coolie immigrants from Calcutta.

One thousand five hundred and sixty-two souls embarked, out of which number 44 died during the voyage, and 1,518 landed in Jamaica.

The death rate on board the ships was as follows:—

Sea Queen - - - - -	3·65
Lincelles - - - - -	3·03
Latona - - - - -	1·52
Stockbridge - - - - -	2·66

The Coolies by these ships are reported to be fine healthy immigrants, those by the 'Stockbridge' being considered superior to any previously introduced.

Some of these newly arrived Coolies, located in the parish of Clarendon, one of the largest sugar-growing districts of Jamaica, have given special satisfaction. After a very short time they were able to engage actively in plantation work and were in a condition to be taken off rations at the expiration of three months after arrival, and to be allowed to receive the whole of their earnings in money.

During the year 357 Coolies who arrived in 1866 completed their term of industrial residence and became entitled to a return passage to India. The whole of these people elected to accept the bounty and remain in the Colony.

The health of the immigrants has been good, the mortality tables show a marked decrease among those who have been some time resident in the Colony, whilst the births show a steady increase.

The Union Hospital system has continued to work well, and the indentured Coolies have derived great benefit from it. The hospitals have now the advantage of inspection by Dr. Wethered, the head of the Government Medical Department, who has had large experience of army hospitals in India, and who has a thorough knowledge of the natives of India. He will bring to notice any defect of construction or equipment that calls for remedy.

It is to be hoped also that as the nurses and subordinate officers become more trained and better acquainted with their duties, these hospitals will become a credit to the Immigration Department. Even in their present not fully developed condition they are immeasurably superior to what were called the Estates Hospitals of a few years ago.

Five hundred and seventy-nine patients were received into the General Depôt and Home for sick and incapacitated Coolies relieved from service under indenture. Of these 424 were discharged cured, 20 were discharged relieved, 22 died, and 113 were in the Depôt and Home at the close of the year.

In consequence of the increased number of immigrants it has

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become necessary to enlarge this Institution, and works for the purpose are now in course of construction.

Applications have been received for 1,500 Coolies for the coming season.

The total East Indian population is returned as follows:—

Serving under indenture - - - - -	5,880
Number who have served five years under indenture, but have not completed ten years' residence	1,418
Number who have completed ten years' residence and voluntarily become colonists - - -	5,157
	12,455

The general conduct of the immigrants is reported to have been good; convictions for criminal offences have been few, and with one exception the offences have been of a trifling nature.

I have also been glad to be assured that the general treatment of the immigrants continues to be highly satisfactory, that they are provided with improved dwellings, and that their wages are regularly and punctually paid.

With respect to the Coolies who have become colonists, the following extract from the Report of the Agent-General on their condition will be read with interest:—

"The time-expired immigrants in Jamaica may be described as a most thriving class, and I may mention as an instance of the success to which an industrious Coolie can attain in this country, the case of 'Seepersunsing,' who arrived here in the ship 'Themis' in 1860. This man recently became the proprietor of 'Brien's Pen,' in the parish of Hanover, for which he paid 600*l.*, and subsequently has purchased another run of land for 200*l.* This is not a solitary case, for everywhere throughout the country, the time-expired Coolie may be found in comparatively affluent circumstances." This statement of the Agent-General is supported by two significant facts, the increasing number of those who elect to become settlers and the return to Jamaica of several Coolies who had taken the back passage to India after completing their industrial residence.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in Savings Banks for the last eight years are shown below:—

Year.	No. of Depositors.		Amount of Deposits.	
			£	
1866 - - -		2,276		56,740
1867 - - -		2,278		54,807
1868 - - -		2,524		58,913
1869 - - -		3,004		74,394
1870 - - -	*469 †2,205	2,674	*16,200 †63,486	79,686
1871 - - -	*2,024 †982	3,026	*93,776 †11,702	105,478
1872 - - -		3,396		142,240
1873 - - -		3,962		158,933

* Government Savings Bank. † Private Savings Bank.

In the above amount of 158,933*l.* are included deposits on account of public funds to the extent of 16,893*l.*, and deposits of the Court of Chancery to the extent of 9,061*l.*

Trade.

The value of the imports for each of the last eight years is shown below:—

	£
*1866	1,030,796
*1867	859,186
*1868	1,023,866
*1869	1,224,414
*1870	1,300,455
1870–71	1,331,185
1871–72	1,559,602
1872–73	1,733,121

The following Table of articles imported which were freed from duty in 1867 is given in continuation of similar Tables in previous Reports:—

	1866.*	1867.*	1868.*	1869.*	1870.*	1870-71.	1871–72.	1872-73.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Steam engines	—	101	3,046	6,904	5,460	4,738	14,033	28,003
Mills	1,722	1,072	1,882	3,822	3,434	9,825	21,644	13,804
Other machinery	5,186	6,879	8,023	6,644	7,844	11,420	5,165	9,149
Pans for boiling sugar	1,427	603	984	2,409	4,676	4,301	6,052	4,603
Pipes for fluids	28	374	1,331	1,202	2,493	2,165	1,801	19,687
Stills	211	559	1,174	2,977	1,698	1,878	1,906	6,076
Shooks of all sorts	23,580	18,023	19,479	17,362	12,180	13,187	16,743	17,051
Staves	1,241	5,587	6,418	3,847	3,823	5,431	7,945	5,205
Wood hoops	2,346	1,225	2,773	2,264	2,981	3,857	2,653	1,856
Iron, galvanized	464	1,238	1,985	1,902	3,142	3,818	5,666	6,971
Ditto, other manufactures	638	3,184	1,174	1,215	1,933	84	56	—
Miscellaneous	851	858	2,719	2,004	3,348	2,369	5,367	5,243
	37,694	39,703	50,988	52,552	53,012	63,073	89,031	117,648

The increase under the head of pipes is due to the importations of the Kingston and Liguanea Waterworks Commissioners.

The value of the exports for each of the last eight years is shown below:—

	Values.		Total.
	Of Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.	Of British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	
	£	£	£
*1866	1,128,508	24,390	1,152,898
*1867	1,016,554	28,540	1,045,094
*1868	1,098,332	40,472	1,138,804
*1869	1,052,562	110,207	1,162,769
*1870	1,158,835	124,171	1,283,026
1870–71	1,196,562	52,153	1,248,685
1871–72	1,348,858	69,585	1,418,443
1872–73	1,144,173	81,838	1,226,011

* These are calendar years.

The exports of the principal staples for the last eight years are shown in the following Table :—

Exports.	1866.*	1867.*	1868.*	1869.*	1870.*	1870–71.	1871–72.	1872–73.
Sugar, hhds. -	33,637	31,206	36,259	29,268	30,747	37,010	35,353	28,428
Rum, punch. - -	18,754	18,834	20,274	15,270	16,897	19,376	20,113	16,584
Coffee, lbs. - -	8,413,532	6,264,861	7,758,985	5,025,812	9,047,284	5,508,989	9,510,739	7,199,144
Pimento, lbs. - -	4,866,239	7,595,800	4,373,259	6,575,249	5,243,109	6,857,830	5,140,898	6,024,551
Dyewoods, fustic, and logwood, tons - -	36,570	48,481	49,129	118,678	84,744	59,951	80,699	52,952
Ginger, lbs. - -	1,550,166	1,728,075	2,036,921	1,261,873	680,492	632,031	599,766	815,659
Arrowroot, lbs. -	70,204	44,566	27,346	11,731	6,343	5,820	13,193	2,470

General Remarks.

The traffic returns of the railway are given in the following summary, and show again a small increase on the preceding year :—

	1872.	1873.
Passengers - - - -	121,066	129,600
Horses - - - - -	753	668
Carriages - - - -	172	205
Cattle - - - - -	577	651
Sheep - - - - -	409	495
Bundles of 28 lbs. Guinea grass -	346,523	420,452
Bundles of 30 lbs. wood - -	282,887	269,402
Tons merchandise - - -	14,092	14,852

The general health of the Island was not as favourable as in preceding years. Small-pox was prevalent throughout the year in parts of the Island. Yellow fever showed itself in Kingston and its vicinity towards the close of the year, and continued with some severity during the early months of the present year. Small-pox, I regret to say, prevails in the city of Kingston at the time of the despatch of this Report.

With these exceptions the general condition of the Colony was satisfactory. Tranquillity and good order prevailed throughout the year.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Roads and Bridges.

The expenditure on main roads and bridges this year amounted to 30,106*l.*, and is classified as follows :—

	£
Maintenance and repairs - - -	23,887
Special services - - - - -	6,219
	£30,106

On ordinary repairs and maintenance of parochial roads under the superintendence of Parochial Road Boards a sum of 22,091*l.* was

* These are calendar years.

expended, and special grants to the amount of 2,280*l.* were made to assist in the construction or repair of certain of these roads and bridges.

The expenditure on all the roads in the island since the establishment of the present constitution is given in the following Table:—

	1865–66.	1866–67.	1867–68.	1868–69.	1869–70.	1870–71.	1871–72.	1872–73.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Main roads and bridges	18,182	12,710	15,746	18,840	26,676	35,967	29,135	30,106
Parochial roads	12,464	14,093	13,190	16,579	18,055	20,273	25,215	24,971
	30,646	26,803	28,936	35,419	44,731	56,242	54,350	55,077

The rate of expenditure on main roads, including repairs of bridges, was 33*l.* per mile.

Of the new road across the Island mentioned in last year's Report, there remain only about seven miles unfinished. It is expected that this road will shortly be completed and opened for traffic. Considerable progress has been made in the construction of a new road from the thriving village of Linstead through a fertile tract of country, at present almost entirely uncultivated, to the main road near Lloyd's estate leading to Spanish Town.

Parapet walls and other means of protection have been constructed in dangerous places on several roads. Further improvements in this direction will be carried out.

The main roads generally throughout the Island are in good order.

Bridges.

The abutments, piers, and approaches of the dry river bridge have been completed.

The transport of the heavy iron work of this bridge from the seaport to the site of the bridge has been delayed owing to a mishap to the traction engine and the injury to the road over which the engine had to travel from heavy rains. The engine is now working well, and the whole of the iron work will soon be at its destination.

Colonel Mann reports, on a recent inspection of this work, that the contracts for the masonry have been faithfully carried out as regards the good quality of the work. He has expressed an opinion that the bridge will be erected and opened for traffic early this year.

The June Gully Bridge, 25 feet span, has been completed.

An iron bridge, of 46 feet span, on the road between the towns of Montego Bay and Lucea, has been completely reconstructed.

An iron girder bridge, 47 feet in length, has been thrown over the Bog River on the road from Port Antonio to Hope Bay.

Two foot-bridges have been erected over rivers in the parish of Portland.

Public Buildings.

The expenditure on public buildings and miscellaneous services amounted to 38,267*l.* The items are thus given:—

	£
Churches, chapels, and rectories	799
Courts and public offices	7,469
Prisons, reformatories, and police stations	4,026
Hospitals, asylums, and poor-houses	4,279
Immigration services	2,502
Markets	576
Miscellaneous services	17,049
Rents of buildings required for public purposes	609
Water supply	88
Expenditure in connection with Government lands	805
Plant for public works	65
	£38,267

A new Stamp Office has been erected in Kingston.

A commodious house, conveniently situated in Kingston, purchased by the Government about two years ago, has been fitted up as a Public Library and Museum.

The laboratory of the Island chemist has also been established in these premises.

A house, with about 180 acres of land attached, has been purchased by the Colony as a residence for the Governor, to replace the former Government House in Spanish Town, which has been appropriated for the "Queen's College."

Lunatic Asylum.

A new range of wards, to accommodate 22 patients, has been commenced, and a piece of land near the Institution has been purchased for the purpose of establishing a garden.

Parochial Hospitals.

A small-pox hospital for 12 patients has been provided at the village of "Linstead," and a small hospital has been attached to the constabulary station at Port Maria.

Lepers' Home.

Considerable improvements and repairs have been executed at the Lepers' Home.

Court Houses.

Considerable repairs and additions have been made to several of the parochial court houses.

Water Supply, Kingston.

The new works for the supply of water to Kingston were continued during the past year.

The progress of this work has been slower than was anticipated. Among the causes of obstruction may be mentioned the delay in obtaining pipes from England, owing to the pressure on the iron and coal trade.

A dam across the Hope River has been constructed for the purpose of increasing the quantity of water flowing into the culvert.

Two reservoirs, at the termination of the culvert near the city, are in course of construction. They will contain 5,000,000 gallons of water, affording a reserve supply for about six days, in addition to the present reserve supply of 6,800,000 gallons.

Two filter beds are also in course of construction.

From the reservoirs the water will flow into the city and its suburbs by a system of iron pipes. The main pipe is 21 inches in diameter. Nearly all the main and supply pipes have been laid down. The works have cost to date 52,975*l.*, and it is estimated that a further sum of 4,000*l.* will be required to complete them. The city will then have an ample supply of water for domestic consumption and for protection against fire.

Wells have been sunk at Povus, in the parish of Manchester, and at Hayes, in the parish of Clarendon, water being obtained at depths of between 150 feet and 180 feet at the former and about 100 feet at the latter place. These are two districts where the people suffered severely from the scarcity of water in seasons of drought.

Gas Works.

The design of the gas works for the city of Kingston, submitted by a London gas engineer, was considered too costly, and more than sufficient for the requirements of Kingston. It has therefore been determined to obtain designs on a less costly scale. A site for the gas works has been purchased, and as soon as the design is approved the construction of the works will be commenced.

District Courts.

The business transacted during the last five years is shown in the following summary:

	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.
Criminal trials - - - - -	1,256	1,712	1,831	2,473	2,679
Small causes - - - - - -	3,133	5,509	7,321	7,396	8,050
Judgment summonses - - -	—	—	—	—	843
Equity cases - - - - - -	2	10	13	15	13
Cases under the Land Laws -	133	137	353	485	241
Bankruptcy cases - - - - -	9	147	42	5	8
Probate cases - - - - -	35	43	42	31	29
Amount claimed - - - £	22,919	29,070	35,958	39,896	41,148
Judgment obtained - - -	11,386	14,919	18,580	15,770	19,873
Costs - - - - - - - -	2,109	2,774	3,350	3,493	3,810
Court fees - - - - - -	2,154	3,225	4,424	4,432	4,600

There were fourteen appeals from the decisions of these Courts, ten being in civil cases and four in criminal cases. The Supreme Court reversed the judgments in two civil and two criminal cases, and confirmed the judgments in eight civil and two criminal cases.

(Signed) WM. GREY

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No. 3.

No. 3.

Administrator BUSHE to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Trinidad, July 6, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for 1873. It has heretofore always been forwarded in manuscript, but in consequence of the establishment this year of a Government Printing Office, it was deemed advisable to have the book printed. The delay in its transmission for which I must apologize, is owing to the time unavoidably occupied in its publication, which was only completed on the 3rd instant.

2. I do not think it expedient to withhold the transmission of the Blue Book for the preparation of any detailed Report. I have therefore taken the first opportunity of forwarding it, and in the few remarks I shall offer I propose to confine myself to a recital of the most prominent facts and changes which are recorded in its pages.

Taxation.

3. Under this head the most notable change which occurred was the abolition of the Income Tax. This tax was first levied in 1861, under Ordinance, No. 15, of 1860. Although there was no clause in the Ordinance limiting its operation, it was generally understood or believed that the tax was not to become a permanent one, and the popular discontent increased as year after year witnessed its continuance. Its abolition was therefore hailed with satisfaction. The largest amount raised under the head of "taxes" was collected in the year 1869, and reached the sum of 13,725*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* Two years previously, viz. in 1867, the yield was only 5,387*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* The collections during 1872 amounted to 13,640*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.* It may fairly be assumed that the maximum amount recovered in any one year was never as much as it ought to have been. The incidence of the tax was most unequal, for while those who were willing to pay readily gave in their returns, those who wished to evade payment found ready means at hand for doing so, and that too without fear of detection. There was, moreover, a class of small shopkeepers whose trade profits would certainly have rendered them liable to the payment of the tax, but from the fact of their keeping no books these profits could not be ascertained, or even estimated with any degree of certainty, and were probably unknown even to the traders themselves.

4. For the Income Tax was substituted a Trade Licence, imposed by Ordinance, No. 28, of 1872, which yielded in 1873 the sum of 1,403*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* To meet the case of absentee proprietors, the contributions of the Planting Body to the cost of immigration was at the same time raised from two-thirds to seven-tenths, the general

revenue contributing the balance. The Export Duty for the year was fixed at 5*s.* a hogshead, and yielded 19,950*l.* 14*s.* 8½*d.* The Customs Tariff was also slightly altered. The Import Duty on flour was lowered from 5*s.* to 3*s.* per barrel of 196 lbs., while that on wine and malt liquor in wood was increased. Calves, goats, pigs, sheep, lambs, swine, hogs, and sucking pigs, on which formerly a duty ranging from 2*s.* to 6*d.* each was levied on importation, were from the beginning of the year included in the Schedule of Exemptions.

Revenue and Expenditure.

5. The total receipts of the year amounted to 281,570*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* The total expenditure was 326,282*l.* 10*s.* 2½*d.* As compared with the revenue of the previous year, that of 1873 showed a falling off of 14,489*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* The receipts from "Customs" alone were diminished by upwards of 11,500*l.* The Rum Duty yielded 1,792*l.* 14*s.* 11½*d.* less in 1873 than in 1872. Immigration was credited with 1,971*l.* 13*s.* 4½*d.* less than in the previous year; and Wharfage Dues also showed a deficiency of 1,496*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* The total deficiency in the Revenue is thus more than accounted for. But there was also a large difference in the Receipts under the head of "Taxes," amounting to 12,236*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, caused by the abolition of the Income Tax. The Trades Duty imposed in its stead, which was estimated to yield 1,800*l.*, only produced 1,403*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*

6. The expenditure of 1873 exceeded that of 1872 by 40,898*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*

7. In looking for the causes of this excess, I find that the Establishment charges of 1873 were increased by 1,725*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*; that the cost of maintaining the hospitals was 1,244*l.* 3*s.* 7½*d.* more than in 1872; that the expenditure on "roads, wharves, and bridges" was also larger by 5,098*l.* 5*s.* 2½*d.*; that the cost of immigration was enhanced by 2,373*l.* 10*s.* 11½*d.*; that "drawbacks" and "refund of "duties" were debited with 3,211*l.* 2*s.* 10½*d.* more than in 1872; that the payment on account of the subsidy to the Telegraph was increased by 1,876*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, while the advances on account of the Railway were also larger by 6,187*l.* 1*s.* 2½*d.*; and that a sum of 1,191*l.* 6*s.* 10½*d.* was expended in establishing a Government Printing Office. But by far the greater portion of the excess is due to the expenditure on "works and buildings," the difference between the expenditure of 1872 and that of 1873 under this head being no less than 14,991*l.* 15*s.*

8. The revenue of the several Ward Unions for the year 1873 amounted to 43,550*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* The expenditure was 36,907*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*

9. The revenue of the Borough of Port of Spain was 8,639*l.* 16*s.* 6½*d.* Its expenditure during the same period was 8,346*l.* 12*s.* 10½*d.* The revenue of the Borough of San Fernando was 5,148*l.* 9*s.* 11½*d.*, and the expenditure 4,505*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*

Public Works.

10. The principal buildings in course of construction, or which were completed during the year, were the Police Barracks in Port of Spain; the Court House at San Fernando; the new residence for the Governor; a new ward at the Leper Asylum, and one at the Colonial

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Hospital; and an extension of the prison accommodation at Chaguanas.

11. Considerable progress was made in the construction of the Police Barracks, but much yet remains to be done to complete them. This building is being erected in accordance with a plan designed by Mr. Street, of London. The walls, composed of native limestone, are very massive, and the structure is altogether of the most substantial kind. Its cost, however, will I fear be much larger than was ever contemplated.

12. The Court House at San Fernando is not yet quite completed, but is sufficiently far advanced to allow of the Sessions of the Supreme Criminal Court being held there.

13. The Governor's new residence is still unfinished, but rapid progress is being made with it. The foundation stone of the edifice was laid by Governor Longden in July last. The site on which it stands was the site of the old Government House, in the Botanic Garden. Not the slightest inconvenience has been felt by the appropriation of that portion of the Gardens which has been set apart for the purpose; and the house, which is being erected after a design furnished by Mr. Ferguson, of London, will, when finished, not only afford a pleasant and commodious residence for the Governor, but will also be an ornament to the Gardens.

14. A sum of 5,121*l.* was expended in dredging operations, and an expenditure of more than 4,450*l.* was incurred in extending the wharf at San Fernando.

15. The construction of the line of Railway from Port of Spain to Arima was commenced under a contract entered into with Mr. William James Caldwell for the sum of 90,111*l.* Mr. Caldwell arrived in November, and at once commenced operations, which are progressing satisfactorily. The entire work is to be completed within two years from the signing of the contract. The Government undertook to provide the labour required, in the event of its being necessary to import labourers, but this contingency has not arisen. Indeed, the number of applications he has received for employment on the works are, the contractor states, in excess of his requirements. The work is ably superintended on behalf of the Government by Mr. J. E. Tanner, C.E., assisted by Mr. E. Giles, C.E.

Legislation.

16. The Ordinances passed during the year were as follows :—

No. 1, "To admit Holders of Foreign Diplomas as Members of the 'Medical Board." Under the Ordinance 5, of 1846, those persons only who produced a "Diploma or Licence from any University, "College, or Incorporated Society in Great Britain or Ireland, having "authority to grant the same conferring on such person a legal title to "practise the art of Medicine or of Surgery, or who shall have served "as a Surgeon or Assistant-Surgeon in Her Majesty's Army or Navy, "or in the service of the East India Company, and who shall not have "been dismissed from the same," were admitted as members of the Board, and entitled to the privileges of members; and no person who had not been admitted a member of the Board was "allowed to "recover in any court of law in this Colony any fees or charges for

"medical or surgical services." By the Ordinance of 1873, holders of foreign diplomas are admitted to membership, but only after having successfully passed an examination in whatever branches of medical service the Royal College of Physicians of London may determine upon. These examinations are conducted in the Island by means of printed papers sent from England by the College, and returned to them for correction. Two examinations have been held, but only one applicant has obtained the necessary certificate entitling him to admission as a member of the Board.

Ordinance No. 2, "For the Licensing of Burial Grounds," makes it unlawful to bury the dead in any place not being a licensed burial ground. Public burial grounds are licensed by the Governor, and private burial grounds by the Warden of the ward in which the land set apart as such burial ground may be situate. The Island was fast becoming a huge cemetery, isolated graves being scattered all over the country, and it was expedient, on sanitary as well as other grounds, to fix by law the places of interment.

Ordinance No. 3 amends in certain particulars "The Trades Duty "Ordinance, 1872."

No. 4 repeals certain Ordinances which have ceased to be in force, or have become unnecessary. 209 Ordinances were thus repealed, dating from 1832 to 1871, and the Statute Book has by this means been disencumbered of a mass of effete legislation.

No. 5 regulates the distribution of the salary of officers administering the Government during any vacancy in the office of Governor, or during the absence or incapacity of the Governor, and enacts rules with regard to Government House, and its furniture.

No. 6 is the Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance.

No. 7 authorizes the raising of the sum of 150,000*l.* upon debentures, for the construction of a Railway from Port of Spain to Arima. This Ordinance was subsequently amended by Ordinance No. 15, which enacts that the rate of interest payable on the debentures shall be "a rate not exceeding five per centum per annum," in lieu of a fixed rate of "five per centum per annum." 100,000*l.* worth of these debentures have been disposed of in London by the Crown Agents, and have realized the sum of 100,181*l.* 12*s.* The moneys raised under the Ordinance with the interest thereon are charged upon, and "payable out of the General Revenues and Assets of the Government "of this Island." It is proposed that the balance of the loan shall be raised in the Colony, and debentures of 20*l.* each to the value of 5,000*l.* will be issued so as to afford an opportunity to residents with small means of making an investment, if they should desire to do so.

Ordinance No. 8 is "for the incorporation of the Bishop of the "Church of England in Trinidad, and other persons, as Trustees of the "said Church."

No. 9 empowers Local Road Boards to enter into contracts for the repair and maintenance of roads in the several districts, for periods not exceeding five years. Formerly these contracts could not well have been entered into for a longer term than one year, as the auditors for the several Ward Unions who compose the Local Road Boards are elected annually, and in the absence of any special authority they could not of course exercise any control over the

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expenditure of the following year. All contracts are made "with "the consent, in writing, of the Central Road Board."

Ordinance No. 10 vests in a single judge the powers of the Supreme Civil Court to discharge debtors.

No. 11, "For establishing a Railway between Port of Spain and "Arima," authorizes the taking of land for the railway, and provides for the grant of compensation for the lands so taken; provision is also made generally for the establishment, maintenance, and management of the railway.

No. 12 is for establishing a Market on the extended wharf in Port of Spain.

No. 13 assimilates to the law of England the practice with regard to addresses to the jury in civil actions.

No. 14 grants to steam vessels in the service of the North German Lloyd Company the same privileges which are accorded to the steamers of other lines trading with the Colony.

No. 16 authorizes advances of money from the Colonial Treasury to persons owning house property in Port of Spain for the repair of their premises; the money so advanced being secured by a mortgage on the premises, and repayable with interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, by 24 equal annual instalments.

No. 17, for raising funds in aid of Immigration for the year 1874, fixes the export duty to be levied on produce exported from the Colony. Hitherto there was a uniform rate per hogshead charged on the sugar exported, irrespective of the exact size of the hogshead; but by this Ordinance the rate varies, being determined by the "truss" of the cask.

No. 18 is the Appropriation Ordinance for 1874.

No. 19 alters the duties payable on tonnage, and enacts that on every ship or vessel of 25 tons and upwards a payment of 1*s.* per ton shall be levied. Vessels under 25 tons are charged at the rate of 3*d.* per ton. Vessels in ballast are exempt, and provision is also made in favour of vessels returning to the Colony within a specified time.

No. 20, "For the Establishment and Regulation of Reformatory "Schools," completes the legislation of the year. This Ordinance has not yet been brought into operation.

None of the foregoing Ordinances have been disallowed by Her Majesty's Government.

17. Before proceeding to enumerate the changes which took place in the Civil Establishment, I regret to have to mention that the Legislative Council was deprived of the able services of one of the unofficial members, by the death of Mr. Louis Alexander Le Roy, who, in the words of an address which was presented to Mrs. Le Roy by the Council, "had always shown himself ready to promote the "welfare of his adopted country," and in losing whom "Trinidad has "sustained a great loss." Mr. Le Roy's seat has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Leon Guiseppi.

Civil Establishments.

18. Lieut.-Governor Rennie continued in the administration of the Government until Mr. Longden's return from leave, at the end of May.

19. The most important of the permanent changes which occurred in the service were the appointment of Mr. Charles Bushe, as Sub-Receiver and Harbour Master at San Fernando, in the place of Mr. Basanta, who retired on a pension; the promotion of Mr. O. Harley from a clerkship in the Receiver-General's Office to the post of Superintendent of Prisons, in succession to Mr. Sealy, who accepted an appointment in British Guiana, Mr. Harley's place in the Treasury being filled by Mr. G. F. Bowen, formerly Warden of Diego Martin. Mr. C. G. Pankin was appointed Senior Landing Waiter, in the place of Mr. Cazabon, who retired on a pension.

The confirmation of Mr. Leotaud's suspension (formerly Warden of St. Ann's), gave rise to some changes in the Wardenships: Mr. J. T. Bowen taking St. Ann's, with the Supervisorship of Port of Spain; Mr. Lacroix succeeding Mr. Bowen at Tacarigua; and Mr. Bourne, formerly Supervisor of Port of Spain, being appointed as Warden of Arima, in the room of Mr. Lacroix. The Supervisorship of Port of Spain, as a separate office, was thus abolished, and a saving of 105*l.* a year thereby effected. Mr. J. M. Farfan, to whom had been entrusted the execution of certain works under the Road Ordinance, resumed his duties as Warden of Caroni; and Mr. S. Devenish, who had been acting in that capacity, was appointed Warden and Supervisor of Diego Martin, on Mr. G. F. Bowen's removal, for neglect of duty, from that post. In the Immigration Department, the resignation of Mr. Trollope caused a vacancy in the office of Inspector of Immigrants, which was filled by the promotion of Mr. O. Warner; and to the office of Sub-Agent thus vacated by Mr. Warner, Mr. Pierre, formerly Chief Clerk in the department, was appointed. Mr. St. Hilaire, from the Crown Lands Office, took Mr. Pierre's place as Chief Clerk. The death of Mr. Griffith rendered vacant the office of Chief Clerk to the Registrar-General, to which Mr. Phillips was appointed.

In the Judicial Department, Mr. Lovesy's elevation to the Bench in British Guiana occasioned a vacancy in the Police Magistracy of Port of Spain, the duties of which are being temporarily discharged by Mr. D. Wilson. Mr. G. Chapman was appointed to succeed Captain Newland, who retired on a pension, as Stipendiary Justice of San Fernando; and Mr. F. R. Hart was appointed as Clerk of the Peace for the Cedroc District, in consequence of the resignation of Mr. D. Hart.

In the Medical Department, Dr. Chittenden was transferred to San Fernando, as Resident Surgeon of the Hospital, vacant in consequence of Dr. Finlay's retirement on a pension; Dr. Arnold took Dr. Chittenden's place as Health Officer of Shipping; and Dr. S. Fitt was appointed a Supernumerary Surgeon at the Colonial Hospital, in Port of Spain.

Pensions.

20. Two deaths occurred among the pensioners borne on the list, viz. that of Mr. T. F. Johnston, late Colonial Secretary, who received a pension at the rate of 400*l.* a year; and Mr. C. Chipchase, late Supervisor, who drew 160*l.* a year. On the other hand, there have been added to the list the names of Dr. K. Finlay, late Medical

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Superintendent of the San Fernando Hospital, whose pension has been fixed at 320*l.* a year; of Mr. D. Watson, late clerk at the same institution, who receives 21*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*; of Captain Newland, late Stipendiary Magistrate of San Fernando, a portion only of whose pension, amounting to 43*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, is payable by the Colony; of Mr. J. D. Cazabon, late Senior Landing Waiter, who draws at the rate of 128*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum; and of Mr. J. Basanta, late Sub-Receiver and Harbour Master of San Fernando, who retired on a yearly allowance of 175*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*

Population.

21. The Registrar-General's Return for 1873 exhibits a total of 4,377 births during the year, and 3,311 deaths. This Return, the Registrar points out, compares favourably with the Returns of the last four years, the number of deaths registered being less than was recorded during any one of the previous years, while the births were considerably in excess of any former period of equal duration, and outnumbered the deaths by 1,066. 453 marriages were solemnized during the year, as against 477 in 1872.

Immigration.

22. I subjoin a few particulars, abstracted from the Report of the Acting Agent-General of Immigrants for 1873, relative to the immigration into this Colony from India during that year, and the working of the system.

23. Of the 4,200 souls who embarked at Calcutta, 4,065 landed here, 135 having died during the voyage.

24. The total number of immigrants resident on estates, under contract or otherwise, was 20,892. The mortality among the indentured immigrants was 3·17 per cent.

25. With regard to the hospitals on the estates, Mr. Mitchell observes that "the accommodation provided for Indian immigrants "during illness is ample and convenient."

26. He draws attention to the increasing numbers who purchase the fourth or fifth year of their industrial service, as operating in the majority of cases to the disadvantage of both the employer and the immigrant, the former losing the services of a labourer whom he has been at some trouble and expense to train, and the latter becoming "hopelessly indebted" to one of his own countrymen, who has advanced him the money to purchase the unexpired term of his contract, and to whom he becomes a "servant in the lowest acceptation "of the term." The number who claimed the privilege of purchase accorded by the law rose from 76 in 1870, to 312 in 1872.

27. The plan of granting to such of the Coolies as desire it allotments of land, in lieu of a return passage, has worked satisfactorily; 514 had up to the end of 1873 commuted their right to a return passage by taking land, and several applications remained at the time to be disposed of.

28. An interesting feature in the system, and one which speaks much in its favour, is the return from India to the Colony of immigrants who had formerly served here under indenture. Some of these pay the cost of their passages themselves; others return under contract, as before.

29. Three hundred and ninety-seven Coolies returned to their native country during the year, taking with them in bills and specie 11,432*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*

30. The supply of labour was much augmented by the immigration which continued to flow into Trinidad from the neighbouring Colonies (principally Grenada), and from Venezuela.

31. The number of these "deckers" who arrived during 1873 exceeded the departures by 5,048, the figures being 7,138 as against 2,090. It is probable, however, that in both cases the numbers were swelled by the going to and fro of the same parties; but under any circumstances there was a very considerable addition to the floating population of the Island of a class of persons whose services were available either as mechanics, agricultural labourers, or domestic servants.

32. These people are not bound by contract to remain here. The immigration, indeed, has been purely a spontaneous one; the railway in course of construction, and the large public works which are now being erected, being no doubt the cause of attraction. But once here, it is certain that many will be induced, by the fact of their being able to earn higher wages than they could obtain in the places whence they come, to settle and make Trinidad their home.

Education.

33. The last annual Report of the Inspector of Schools gives a favourable account of the success which has attended the operation of the system introduced by Sir Arthur Gordon in 1870. Schools have been multiplied to keep pace with the increased number of scholars, and there is every reason to believe that the instruction imparted in the several schools is of a more efficient character than it used to be under the former system. This is easily accounted for, for the teachers who used then to be selected almost at random must now undergo an examination and obtain a certificate before being placed in charge of a school; and by the introduction of the system of payment by results, they are stimulated to some extra exertion for the advancement of their pupils. There seems also to be a laudable and growing desire on the part of the labouring classes for the education of their children, as petitions are continually being received from the inhabitants of remote districts for the establishment of schools within reach of their homes. The total number of scholars attending the several state-aided, borough, and ward schools at the close of 1873, was 5,319, and instruction is afforded, in schools established on several of the estates, to 392 pupils, principally children of Asiatic immigrants, making a total of 5,711. These estate schools are supported entirely by voluntary contribution. In summing up his Report, the Inspector observes: "Education has not only been extended, but it has been

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"advanced. Educational results have been subjected to a more "rigorous test than ever before; and the expenditure on a school "and the master's emoluments are made to depend to a large extent "upon these results. The teachers have, with few exceptions, bent to "their work with a steadiness and cheerfulness that are highly "deserving of recognition, though from the short time the new "system has been in operation its effects and action are not yet quite "perfectly understood, and its results have been to some extent masked "by the epidemic of last year, which has now completely disappeared, "and the schools are now more largely attended than ever before in "the history of the Island."

Imports and Exports.

34. The total value of the imports into Trinidad during 1873 amounted to 1,324,432*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*, and was 90,661*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* in excess of the previous year.

35. The following Table will show the countries from which Trinidad derives her supplies of merchandise, &c., and the extent of her transactions with them respectively:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
From the United Kingdom, the value of the imports was - - - - -	562,318	18	9
From India, ditto - - - - - -	64,555	5	11
From British North America, ditto -	60,227	8	7
From British West Indies, ditto - -	120,352	5	0
From Foreign States, the total value of the imports amounted to - - -	516,979	0	9
The Foreign Trade was carried on principally with Venezuela, from which the imports amounted to - - - - -	215,346	3	10
The United States supplied us with goods to the amount of - - - - -	192,133	16	3
The importations from France were valued at - - - - - - - - -	65,309	5	8
From Spain at - - - - - -	12,506	11	10
From the Danish West Indies at - -	10,307	4	0
From the French West Indies at - -	7,607	4	0
From Brazil at - - - - - -	4,590	6	6
From Germany at - - - - -	3,164	16	2
From the Spanish West Indies at - -	2,164	2	0
And from Teneriffe at - - - -	2,073	5	9

The imports from the other places are of too insignificant a character to be specially noted.

36. The value of the exports from Trinidad amounted to 1,733,615*l.* 6*s.* This also was in excess of the estimated value of the exports of 1872 by 293,110*l.* 12*s.*

37. The quantity of sugar exported in 1873 was 1,191,866 cwts., as against 920,464 cwts. in the previous year. Molasses figures in the Return for 1,624,998 gallons, as against 1,716,930 gallons exported

in 1872; and rum is put down at 16,644 gallons in 1873, as against 20,806 gallons shipped in 1872. There was also an excess in the quantity of cacao exported, the figures being for 1873, 7,482,091 lbs.; for 1872, 6,985,904 lbs. Cocoanuts also formed a not unimportant item in the export trade, no less than 2,380,871 having been shipped during the year. The quantity of asphalt exported amounted to 7,848 tons. In this article there seems to have been a slight falling off, for the exports of the previous year amounted to 9,099 tons. The coffee exported amounted to 22,225 lbs., and exhibits a considerable increase as compared with the quantity exported in 1872, viz. 4,325 lbs.

38. I subjoin a list of some of the countries to which the greater portion of the articles exported were sent, with a statement of the value of such exports:—

	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	1,380,229	10	0
Venezuela	95,837	6	0
Germany	78,777	9	0
United States	53,197	12	0
France	49,152	16	0
British West Indies	39,400	4	0
French West Indies	12,017	1	0
Spanish West Indies	11,366	1	0
British North America	5,001	12	0

39. These Trade Returns are eminently satisfactory, and show that the commercial relations between Trinidad and other countries, more especially Venezuela, are on the increase. They are still capable of being extended, and there is no surer guarantee for the continued prosperity of the Island than a development of its commerce on a sound and steadily increasing basis.

Gaols.

40. A very interesting Report by the Inspector of Prisons upon the gaol and on prison discipline is appended to the Blue Book. A new set of rules, drawn up by Governor Longden, and approved by the Secretary of State, was brought into operation at the commencement of the present year, and they are likely to have a beneficial effect. I will not now discuss the questions treated of by the Inspector in his Report, but merely state that the number of prisoners committed during the year was 2,649; that the prison accommodation at Chaguanas was considerably enlarged, and such enlargement tended to relieve the Royal Gaol from undue overcrowding; that the Farm at Irois, which was worked by penal labour, was closed on the 31st December; and that the Legislature and the Executive Government are fully alive to the necessity of establishing industrial and reformatory schools for youthful criminals, an Ordinance for the establishment of reformatory schools having already been passed and confirmed by Her Majesty's Government, and one for the establishment of industrial schools being now under the consideration of the Council.

General Remarks.

41. The year 1873 may, on the whole, be looked upon as a favourable one for Trinidad. The social depression caused by the prevalence during the greater portion of the two preceding years of the small-pox, in an epidemic form, gradually wore away. The ravages committed by the disease showed the urgent necessity for vigorous measures being taken for promoting a more effectual system of vaccination, and also for improving the sanitary condition of the towns. The former has, I think, been brought about by a rigid enforcement of the provisions of the Vaccination Amendment Ordinance, passed at the close of 1872, and the defects in our sanitary condition will, doubtless, be brought to light in the Report of Mr. Unsworth, the Sanitary Engineer who was specially commissioned to inquire into that subject.

42. The year was an unusually dry one. During what is termed "the dry season," i. e. from January to June, large tracts of cultivated and forest land were devastated by the fires, which, in the majority of cases, had been inconsiderately set for the purpose of clearing small patches of ground for the planting of provisions, and although, as the necessity for doing so became apparent, Proclamation after Proclamation was issued prohibiting the setting of fire to lands in different parts of the country, numerous convictions were obtained against persons charged with the offence of violating the provisions of the Ordinance No. 24, of 1869, "For the better Prevention of Accidents by Fire."

43. The establishment of a large central sugar factory in the Naparima District, by the Colonial Company, Limited, deserves more than a passing notice, but it will suffice to say that it promises to be of benefit not only to its enterprising proprietors, but to the Colony at large.

44. But while congratulating ourselves on the prosperity of the past year, I must admit that, without there being the slightest cause for alarm, the prospects of the one on which we have entered are not quite so encouraging. I shall, nevertheless, conclude by expressing a confident hope that, ere its termination, the fears of the most timid and the doubts of the most sceptical will be altogether removed.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. S. BUSHE,
Administrator.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

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No. 4.

Governor HENNESSY, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Government House, Nassau, May 27, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Bahamas for the year 1873, together with my Report upon it.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. POPE HENNESSY.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE BAHAMAS BLUE BOOK FOR 1873.

Finances.

1. Since the collapse that followed the blockade-running days of Nassau, the finances of the Bahamas have engaged the special attention of the Government.

2. The following Table shows the decline of the revenue for 1864, when it was at its maximum, to 1872 :—

	£
1864	102,024
1865	84,488
1866	53,283
1867	46,826
1868	40,777
1869	35,576
1870	40,710
1871	41,869
1872	37,574

3. This falling off of revenue was due to the serious decline of trade during those years, as exhibited in the following Table of imports and exports:—

Years.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1864	5,346,132	4,672,398
1865	1,470,467	2,063,474
1866	328,622	261,972
1867	365,316	227,248
1868	231,526	131,522
1869	240,584	163,002
1870	283,970	190,253
1871	239,190	152,410
1872	201,051	136,224

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4. Unfortunately, whilst the trade and the revenue of the Colony were thus declining, my predecessors found it absolutely necessary to add to the taxation. All import duties were increased 25 per cent. A special income-tax (from 5 to 7½ per cent.) was levied upon the salaries of the Colonial officials. An export duty was charged upon the cargoes of all vessels that might have to put into the Bahamas in distress; and certain tonnage dues of the port of Nassau were increased. At the same time, by the skill and firmness of Sir James Walker, considerable reductions of expenditure were effected.

5. But in spite of this heavy taxation, I found on my arrival in the Colony, in May, 1873, that there was no money in the treasury chest, and that the payment of the public officers was for some months in arrear. In the last Blue Book Report of the Bahamas that has been laid before Parliament (Colonial Possessions, Part I., p. 69, presented in the Session of 1874), Governor Strahan, in a Despatch, dated April 24, 1873, says:—

"I regret to state that the present revenue is not sufficient to meet the ordinary expenditure, and that the general condition of the Colony cannot therefore be considered as satisfactory."

6. Furthermore, I found that certain debentures, to the amount of 10,920*l.*, which had fallen due a month before I reached the Bahamas, were still unpaid, and that no provision had been made to meet them.

7. About the same time the Secretary of State pointed out that the yearly revenue of the Crown lands was less than the current expenditure.

8. This unsatisfactory state of the finances was remedied in twelve months, by the action of the General Assembly.

9. In my first speech to the General Assembly I could not avoid adverting to the fact, that on looking through the votes and proceedings of the Lower House it appeared that Session after Session the members of the Government had been generally in a small minority of four or five, and that the opposition had consisted of the overwhelming majority of the representatives of the people.

10. Feeling that it would be difficult to expect a healthy development of the colonial resources, or a sound exchequer with the want of confidence which for the preceding five or six years had existed between them and the local Government, I endeavoured to recognize from the outset the full constitutional rights and business capacity of the Assembly.

11. Accordingly, the financial measures which the Government brought before the Legislature in the second Session of 1873 and the Session of 1874 were founded on the advice and cordial co-operation of those who really represented the community. It very soon became evident that the local merchants, traders, and professional men understood the wants of the Colony, and knew how to deal with them.

12. They increased by 50 per cent. the duties on ale, beer, brandy, gin, rum, and whisky; by 100 per cent. the duties on cigars and tobacco; and by 200 per cent. the duties on wine.

13. On the other hand, the Assembly relieved the general con-

sumer of all other articles, by reducing the 25 per cent. ad valorem duties to 15 per cent. They abolished the export duty on vessels in distress, and they reduced the tonnage and wharfage dues. They abolished a licence fee payable by the boatmen employed in saving life and property—a class of hardworking and useful men who should be called salvers and not wreckers; and they repealed the special income-tax which was so obnoxious to the public officers.

14. The leading Members of the Assembly took an active part also in curtailing unnecessary expenditure. By the operation of the local law a considerable part of the current outlay of the Colony is administered by Committees of both Houses nominated annually by the Governor.

There may be theoretical objections to the exercise of administrative functions by Members of Parliament; but, in practice, I certainly found the system work well at Nassau. In dealing with the vote for Public Works, the vote for Education, and the vote for Poor Relief, the Committees, or Boards of Commissioners, looked carefully into every item of expenditure.

15. Too much credit cannot be given to these gentlemen for the satisfactory result of their labours. From the enclosure in my Despatch of the 27th of April, 1874, it will be seen that instead of reporting the usual deficit, the Receiver-General certifies that the expenditure of the year 1873 was brought within the revenue; that for the first time for six years all the salaries were paid on the 31st of December, 1873; and that the year 1874 opened with a balance of 1,423*l.* in the treasury chest.

16. This improvement in the finances enabled the Assembly to restore the inter-insular mail service, which from financial embarrassments had to be suspended five years ago. Indeed, the commercial activity which followed the re-establishment of the regular communication between Nassau and the out-islands speedily recouped the local treasury the amount of the moderate subsidy now voted for this object.

17. The Assembly also placed at the disposal of the Governor for the establishment of telegraphic communication a sum of 2,000*l.* a year for ten years.

18. The following figures show the comparison of the financial operations of the years 1872 and 1873, as completed and audited on the 31st of December:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1872	37,574	39,000
1873	44,053	42,737

19. On referring to the second paragraph of this Report it will be seen that the revenue of the year 1873 was greater than the revenue of any of the preceding five years.

20. On the whole there is every reason to believe that the sound financial condition to which the Colony has restored itself will continue, and that the Assembly will not be again embarrassed by finding the annual expenditure in excess of the annual revenue.

Imports and Exports.

21. The value of the imports in 1873 was 226,306*l.*, and the value of the exports, 156,613*l.*; showing in each case a slight improvement as compared with the year 1872.

Pine-apple Trade.

22. The total number of pine-apples exported to the United States and England (exclusive of tinned fruit) was 422,994 dozen, valued at 38,767*l.* Of pine-apples in tins, preserved and packed at the manufactory at Nassau, there were 69,165 dozen exported, of the value of 13,018*l.* From the same manufactory, 5,827 cases of pine-apples were also shipped, valued at 1,712*l.* The value of all the pine-apples shipped from the Bahamas in the year 1873 was therefore 53,497*l.* Most of the pine-apples hawked about the streets of London in the season come from the Bahamas. Their inferiority to the hot-house pine-apple of England is due to the necessity of cutting them unripe, so that they may outlive the sea voyage. I have tasted pine-apples grown at Nassau of finer flavour than the best English pines.

23. The cultivation of the pine-apple is rapidly spreading through the Colony. Not many months ago I had an opportunity of seeing what is probably the largest field of pine-apples in the world. It is on the estate of Mr. J. J. Johnson, in the eastern district of New Providence; and from one spot it was possible there to see, at a single glance, 1,200,000 pine-apples growing. They were well weeded and in good order. This broad expanse of young fruit, in its clusters of delicately-tinted but sharp and distinct leaves, gave a peculiar feature to the landscape. In appearance it had as little in common with the planes of sugar-cane or the paddy-fields of the tropics as with the corn-fields of Europe.

Sponge Trade.

24. Owing to the insurrection in Cuba, and the difficulties which the Spanish authorities have thrown in the way of the spongers who had been accustomed to work on the reefs near that island, the sponge trade of the Bahamas is not as prosperous as it should be.

25. Of the nine different kinds of sponge known to the Bahama trade, the following are the values of the quantities exported in the year 1873:—

	£
Boat sponge	3,949
Glove sponge	550
Grass sponge	4,401
Hardhead sponge	1,044
Reef sponge	3,084
Roots sponge	560
Velvet sponge	6,022
Wool sponge	11,188
Yellow sponge	1,439
Refuse	701

In the year 1872 the total weight of sponge exported was 2,790 cwt., valued at 18,831*l.* Though the export for 1873 was much larger (over 30,000*l.*), I fear the export for the current year (1874) may fall short of the average. The Syrian sponges are of a finer quality than the Bahama sponges, but our sponge trade is becoming more valuable than the Syrian trade. In the Report of the British Vice-Consul at Beyrout for 1873, he states that the total value of the sponges fished on the coast of Syria in that year was from 20,000*l.* to 25,000*l.*, and that the supply is falling off.

Salt Trade.

26. The excessive import duty still levied in the United States on salt has almost paralyzed the salt raking trade of the Bahamas. The introduction, however, this year of salt-grinding machines at Inagua, which will render the Bahamas salt suitable for the fish-curing markets of Canada, may assist in restoring to the Colony what was once a very lucrative business. The value of Bahama salt exported in the year 1873 was 11,080*l.*, showing a slight improvement as compared with the year 1872.

Oranges, &c.

27. During the past year 2,252,000 oranges were exported, valued at 3,822*l.*, being 400*l.* more than the value of the oranges exported in 1872. Of bananas, 7,172 bunches, valued at 346*l.*; and about 700*l.* worth of grape fruit, shaddocks, lemons, limes, and melons.

United States Legislation.

28. Owing to a misprint in one of the Acts of Congress the Bahama fruit dealers made an unexpected profit in the year 1873. On the 6th of June, 1872, an Act of Congress was passed, entitled "An Act to reduce Duties on Imports, and to reduce Internal "Taxes, and for other purposes." In the original bill was a clause exempting from the 20 per cent. ad valorem duty, "Fruit-plants, "tropical and semi-tropical, for the purpose of propagation or cul-"tivation." But in the engrossed Act of Congress a comma was substituted, by a clerical error, for a hyphen, and the exempting words stood thus:—"Fruit, plants, tropical and semi-tropical, for the "purpose of propagation or cultivation."

29. When the mistake was discovered Congress had risen, and it was too late to rectify it until the following Session. Meanwhile the Bahama traders brought actions in the United States Courts to recover the 20 per cent. ad valorem duty that they had been compelled to pay subsequent to the 6th of June, 1872. The United States Government allowed the actions to go by default, as the Secretary of the Treasury decided that the clerical error rendered a new Act of Congress necessary to enforce any duty upon tropical fruit. The United States Consul at Nassau informed me that about $50,000 were repaid by the United States Government to the Bahama traders in consequence of this mistake. In addition to this no duty was leviable until the 1st of July, 1873, when the Act rectifying the

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mistake came into operation; so that the greater part of the fruit-shipping season of the Bahamas of this year had the advantage of being conducted duty free.

The Debentures of 1868.

30. The Debentures, to the amount of 10,920*l.*, which were due on the 1st May, 1873, were paid off by the issue of new ones on more favourable terms to the Colony. The new Debentures were entirely subscribed for within the Bahamas. The credit of the Colonial Government is now so good, that double the amount would have been readily taken up at par.

The Crown Fund.

31. During the year 1873, the expenditure from this fund was brought within the revenue; and on the 31st of last December, it exhibited a balance, over and above all liabilities, of more than 4,000*l.*

The Crown Lands.

32. Unlike other West Indian islands there is a considerable quantity of Crown land still unsold. In Andros island 14,377 acres have from time to time been granted, whilst 1,015,634 still remain unsold. In Inagua, 2,721 acres have been disposed of, leaving 365,919 still in the hands of the Government. In Mayaguana, whilst only 40 acres have been granted, 61,360 are still left ungranted.

33. The upset price of Crown land is 10*s.* an acre. But private land not unfrequently sells at public auction as low as 1*s.* 6*d.* an acre.

34. Looking to the possibility of establishing something like a peasant proprietary, and to the manifest advantage of getting the now unappropriated Crown lands into cultivation, the question of considerably reducing the upset price of Crown land is well deserving of attention.

Vienna Exhibition of 1873.

35. Out of forty British Colonies, only eleven were represented at the Vienna Exhibition; and of the fifteen British West Indian Colonies, only three were represented. Between the three latter the jurors distributed seven awards—one to Jamaica, two to Trinidad, and four to the Bahamas.

36. The principal articles exhibited from the Bahamas were sponges; fibres of palmetto made into ropes, hats, and fans; braziletto, mahogany, satinwood, sabica, and ebony; turtle shells, conch shells for making cameos; wings of the flamingo; fibres of plantain, banana, and pine-apple; and fish-scale and shell work. Some specimens of the shell-work that had been much admired at the Exhibition were presented, in the name of the Colony, to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh on his marriage.

37. Since the Exhibition, orders from Europe have reached some of the traders in Nassau for fibres and shell-work, the specimens of which had attracted attention at Vienna.

38. On the motion of the Honourable T. Darling, seconded by the

Honourable R. Sawyer, the following vote of thanks to the Earl of Kimberley was passed by the Executive Council, in November, 1873:

"Resolved, that the Members of the Executive Council request his Excellency the Governor to convey to the Earl of Kimberley their grateful acknowledgment for the attention given to the interests of the Bahama exhibitors at the Vienna Exhibition of 1873, by Mr. William Robinson, the special Commissioner for the Crown Colonies, appointed by his Lordship to superintend the Colonial section. The favourable notice which the Bahama products obtained, and the great care shown by the officers of the Colonial department in London in securing the safe transit and exhibition of the articles, will, the Executive Council believe, have the effect of inducing a much larger number of Bahama exhibitors to send goods to the next International Exhibition."

Telegraphic Communication.

39. In July, 1873, the Legislature passed an Act for establishing telegraphic communication between the Bahamas and the United States or Cuba. Under this Act the Governor in Council is empowered to expend 2,000*l.* a year for ten years in subsidizing a telegraphic company. There are perhaps fair grounds for expecting some assistance also from the Imperial Government for this object. If a chain of telegraphic communication were completed throughout the six hundred miles of the Bahama islands, a system of weather forecasts and storm signals would thereby become practicable, that may result in saving much life and property. The hurricanes which from time to time cause such destruction to the coasting vessels, as well as along the two great routes of British shipping in those regions, travel not much faster than an ordinary mail steamer; for instance, the approach of a hurricane from Turk's Island to Nassau could be telegraphed 24 hours before its arrival. With such notice the steamers could run out of the track of the coming storm, and other vessels could seek in good time the more sheltered parts of the harbour. From the want of such notice in the hurricane of October, 1866, 93 vessels were totally wrecked in a few hours at Nassau.

Hospitals.

40. The New Providence Asylum, including the Civil Hospital, Workhouse, Lunatic Asylum, and Leper Hospital, is a well-managed institution, situated in one of the healthiest parts of Nassau. Exclusive of the salaries of the officers, the cost of its maintenance in 1873 was 2,570*l.* It is under the direct control of three most efficient commissioners, selected by the Governor from the Members of the Legislature. The paid superintendent is also a good officer. During the year 1873 the valuable services of Dr. Chipman were lost to the Colony, but the Government was able to secure a worthy successor to that gentleman by the appointment of Dr. Duncombe, the present physician.

41. The daily average number of patients in the hospital for 1873 was 84; the number of cases treated was 223; the number of deaths, 49. The daily average number of lunatics was 20: of these,

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2 were cured and 4 died. In the leper department there were 5 under treatment, of whom 1 died.

42. My predecessor, Governor Strahan, deserves much credit for the active interest he took in the management of every branch of the New Providence Asylum. I ascertained from the visitors' book that he was in the habit of making a personal inspection of the institution nearly every week.

Gaols.

43. The new prison at Nassau is well constructed, and admits of the separate system being carried out. It contains 101 cells, an infirmary, 3 hospital wards, and 6 bath-rooms. The daily average number of prisoners in 1873 was 72. The total cost of the prison for the year, including the salaries of the keeper, the chaplain, the matron, and the subordinate officers, was 1,922*l.*

44. I found it necessary to alter some of the rules respecting the punishment of prisoners for prison offences. I abolished flogging, I put an end to the system of shaving the heads of the female prisoners as a punishment, and in accordance with the recommendation of Dr. Maclure, the highly intelligent physician to the prison, I added an hour to the sleeping time. On the other hand, I had two important elements of discipline strictly enforced—that is, the shot-drill and the penal diet.

45. It would seem that the floggings and shaving of the heads had tended rather to harden the prisoners and render them desperate more than to reform them, for since the alteration in the rules the number of prison offences has diminished in a greater ratio even than the number of prisoners.

46. The steady decline in the daily average number of prisoners which has been observed in 1873 and throughout the current year (1874), is probably owing to the shot-drill and to the admirable discipline maintained by the Provost Marshal and the keeper of the prison.

47. The Colony is fortunate in having at the head of the judicial department a most accomplished Chief Justice, who commands the confidence of every class of the community. Indeed, the administration of the law in Nassau is most creditable to the Colony.

48. There is, however, another cause for the comparatively small number of prisoners in the Bahamas compared with the population, which should not pass unnoticed; I refer to the untiring exertions of the Bishop of Nassau, Dr. Venables, and of the clergy of the various denominations.

(Signed) J. POPE HENNESSY.

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No. 5.

Governor RAWSON, C.B., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Barbados, November 8, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, at the earliest possible date after receiving a copy of the volume, my Report upon the Blue Book of this Island for the year 1873.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Carnarvon, (Signed) RAWSON W. RAWSON.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT.

In my last Annual Report I stated that the year 1872 was a hard year for the Island—one of difficulty and trial for its planters and population. The cause of this was the reduction of the sugar crop to 39,167 hhds., which was 27 per cent. below the crop of 1871, and nearly 20 per cent. below the average crop of the six preceding years, 1866–71. In 1873 the crop fell still lower, and yielded only 37,337 hhds. In the three consecutive years 1866–68 the crops had averaged 55,580 hhds. In the five next years, 1869–73, they had averaged only 40,366 hhds. This signifies a loss of 76,070 hhds., a quantity equal to the average crop of a year and a half, in these five years; but this does not fully show the extent of the pressure in this last year. In the middle of the quinquennium, 1868–73, occurred the good crop of 1871, 53,907 hhds. If this year be eliminated, the average of the remaining four years was only 36,981 hhds., or exactly one-third of the crops of 1866–68, and the year 1873 was the last of this series of disastrous years, such as has not occurred since the agriculture of the Island recovered from the shock of emancipation.

2. The House of Assembly was therefore perhaps justified in expressing the opinion, in their answer to the Governor's speech on opening the present Session, that the past year was one "of great "individual distress," and that "there has hardly been any period of "the Colony's history when there was less individual prosperity." This sentiment was generally corroborated by the local press, and echoed in one of the best-informed newspapers in London, which pays special attention to Colonial subjects, It may therefore be accepted as an accurate description of the year.

3. It will be instructive to examine how so heavy a pressure bore upon the population and upon the general interests of the Island; and it will prove no less satisfactory than at first sight surprising,

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that, as will appear from the following statements, the revenue flourished; trade, inwards and outwards, excepting only the export of home grown sugar, increased; consumption was but slightly checked; crime largely decreased; pauperism was scarcely more apparent than usual; emigration was less than in the preceding year —and the general health of the Island was excellent. For such results the Government and the Legislature may well feel grateful. But they might not occur on a future occasion of similar trial; and as the population increases the danger of an adverse turn of affairs will grow and swell with it, which it behoves the Legislature to avert by timely measures, the necessity of which becomes yearly more apparent and more urgent.

I. *Taxes, &c.*

4. There was no change during the year in the Customs tariff, or in any duty or tax contributing to the public revenue.

II. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

5. The financial results of the year were in every respect satisfactory. The revenue exceeded that of 1872 by 6,024*l.*, having advanced from 117,652*l.* to 123,676*l.*, without any increase of taxation; the expenditure was less than that of 1872 by 3,212*l.*, having been in the respective years 125,040*l.* and 121,796*l.*; and the revenue exceeded the expenditure by 1,880*l.* The treasurer's balance at the end of the year was thus increased from 3,093*l.* at the beginning to 4,972*l.*

6. These results, considering the smallness of the crop, 37,337 hhds., following another very short crop of 39,167 hhds., and the extent of "individual distress," and "absence of individual prosperity," avowed by the House of Assembly, form a fit subject of congratulation, as they show that the financial condition of the Colony is healthy; that the taxes do not press heavily, either by their amount or their incidence; that in a bad year the population is able to continue its consumption of necessary articles; that the unusual distress and absence of prosperity spoken of was correctly applied to individuals, and not to the mass of the population; and that although the revenue of the Colony must to some extent be affected by such an unprosperous state of affairs, and its effects must be felt in some measure by the population generally, the latter is not seriously affected, and the revenue is but little diminished.

7. The explanation of this is not difficult to be found. Barbados contains a dense population (in 1873 probably 170,000), of whom all but five per cent. at most, if employed at all, are working at a low, if not a minimum, rate of wages, which scarcely varies in a good or bad year—and who find almost the same amount of employment in a bad as in a good year, because, except as regards reaping, which occupies but a few weeks, more or less, the planter works for the future, whether his present crop be good or bad. Another reason is that, although the proprietors and planters depend chiefly upon their sugar crop, the labouring population is more affected by the character

of the root and grain crops, the failure of which, though often coincident with that of the sugar crop, is not invariably so. A third reason is, that there is a large foreign commerce in Bridgetown, arising from its favourable position as an entrepôt in these seas, which is in no wise dependent upon the character of the seasons, or the condition of the population in the Island.

8. These influences are illustrated by the details of the revenue and trade of 1873, as well as of the preceding year, and they are put forward in explanation of the buoyancy of the revenue, and with the view of showing that this is not likely to fluctuate much below the average in bad years, although it may, and is likely to, rise above it in years of prosperity.

9. The revenue of the Island is derived from four main branches, with a few minor branches, and considerable miscellaneous receipts. A comparison of the last three years, in the first of which the crop was large, viz. 53,907 hhds., with the last two, in which it was only 39,167 and 37,337 hhds. respectively, will show how small is the effect of these failures upon the expenditure of the mass of the population and upon the produce of the revenue.

10. Thus, with an unchanged tariff, a decrease of 27 per cent. in the crop of 1872 caused a decrease of only 1·5 per cent. in the import duties ; and in 1873 a decrease of 30 per cent. in the crop, superadded to the loss of 1872, caused a similar decrease of only 3 per cent. The tonnage and port dues in 1873 are almost equal to those of 1871, and higher than those of 1872. The licences have not in reality fluctuated much, but a tax on stills has added above 1,500*l.* to the revenue in 1872 and 1873, which first becomes fully apparent in the latter year. The duty on rum has been increased mainly through better supervision. The other receipts show little fluctuation, but an improvement in 1873. The further effects of the short crop on revenue, in connection with the import duties, will be seen in the remarks on the trade of the past year.

11. The expenditure of 1872 and 1873 shows a decrease in the latter year of 3,244*l.*, viz. :—

	£
1872 - - - -	125,040
1873 - - - -	121,796

but this, on closer examination, is but nominal, having been caused by a withdrawal of 7,176*l.* from the General Treasury in 1872 on account of the Public Buildings Fund, which was then closed : so that there was a real excess of 3,932*l.*, which is more than accounted for under the head of Public Works, on which the excess in 1873 amounted to 4,744*l.* The principal items of excess in 1873 were :—

	£
Drawbacks and refund of duty - - - -	1,293
Grant to Leeward New Road Commissioners - -	1,000

The principal items of decrease were :—

	£
Molehead Works - - - - - -	2,481
Arrears of salary to Bishop Parry - - - -	1,697

III. *Local Revenues.*

12. There was an advance in the parochial revenue and expenditure of the year, and an increased outlay on the poor, exclusive of the erection of almshouses in two of the districts.

The revenue is derived chiefly from taxes on land, rents, trade, and, in St. Michael's, occupancy, pew-rents, a few rentals, bequests and donations; and dog licences.

13. The expenditure in 1873 was distributed over the following services:—

	£
Poor	9,767
Education	1,222
Ecclesiastical	3,478
Miscellaneous	9,768
Total	£24,236

14. The expenditure upon the poor in the last four years has been:—

	£
In 1870	7,141
1871	7,658
1872	8,467
1873	9,767

The last sum includes 606*l.* spent on the construction of two almshouses. The expenditure upon education shows a diminution from 1,789*l.* to 1,222*l.*; that on ecclesiastical purposes, an increase from 2,782*l.* to 3,478*l.*

15. The operation of the dog tax is shown more distinctly than in the Return for last year. It has yielded throughout the Island 1,023*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*; but in the eight parishes in which a comparison can be instituted between 1872 and 1873, there has been a falling off of nearly one-half, viz. from 414*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* to 227*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*

16. The revenue raised by the Road Commissioners exhibited a slight increase, viz.:—

	£
In 1870	7,001
1871	6,794
1872	7,223
1873	7,333

17. There was an increase in the number of all kinds of animals and of carriages.

18. The assessments in Bridgetown and St. Michael's exhibit little change, but no retrogression, in the value of rents charged during the year, as compared with 1872, but a considerable increase in the value of property charged on account of occupancy, which may have arisen partly from some changes in the description of tenements made chargeable. There has been a decrease to the extent of 2·7 per cent. in the profits of trade, which have, according to the assessment (of necessarily doubtful accuracy), fallen from 180,480*l.* in 1872 to 175,520*l.* in 1873.

19. The total parochial taxation has increased annually in each of the last two years, and was 8·6 per cent. higher in 1873 than in 1871, viz.:—

	£
1871	29,059
1872	30,440
1873	31,569

It bears about the same proportion as in 1872, of 26 per cent., to the corresponding gross revenue of the Colony.

20. The gross amount of general taxation was 155,245*l.*, which, in proportion to the area of the Island, amounts to 1*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* per acre, being an increase of 1*s.* 3*d.* over that of last year; and in proportion to the population, estimated hereafter at 170,000, amounts to 17*s.* 6½*d.* per head. Last year the calculation, being founded on the population according to the census of April, 1871, was stated to be 18*s.* 4½*d.* per head. The later calculation is more accurate.

IV. *Public Debt.*

21. No general debt.

V. *Military Expenditure.*

22. There has been a slight increase in the amount last year, attributable mainly to the increase under the head of "Provisions, Forage, "Fuel and Light, Transport, &c." The regimental pay is diminished by nearly 1,000*l.*

	£	Average.
In 1869	90,887	
1870	77,258	83,094*l.*
1871	81,136	
1872	54,658	
1873	55,160	54,909*l.*

VI. *Militia.*

23. This force has ceased to exist since the 11th January, 1869. The Act of 23rd May, 1866, entitled "An Act to raise and organize "a Militia Force in this Island," was repealed by Act No. 1, of the 24th December, 1868, which, however, did not repeal an earlier Act of 13th August, 1839, entitled "An Act to consolidate and amend "the several Acts relating to the Militia of this Island, and to provide "for the better Organization of the same."

VII. *Public Works.*

24. The expenditure under this head amounted in 1872 to 33,940*l.*, of which 23,021*l.* was chargeable against the general revenue, and 10,919*l.* against the Public Buildings Fund, having been expended under the Act of 1868 upon the erection of the New Public Buildings. From September, 1872, the separate receipts on account of the Public Buildings Fund have been merged in the general revenue. The expenditure of 1873 has been 28,943*l.*, viz.:—

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I. Works carried on by the Molehead Board, consisting of:—

	£	£
1. Expenses of dredging - -	1,836	
2. Purchase of steamtug, balance -	905	
3. Repairs to Molehead - - -	599	
4. Other payments - - - -	1,112	
		4,452
5. Wharf walls of Inner Basin - -	4,886	
6. Excavation of „ -	3,300	
7. Improvement of Northern Wharf	2,366	
8. „ of Southern „	2,548	
9. Cost of crane - - - -	510	
		13,610
		£18,062

II. Other Public Works:—

1. New Lighthouse on East Coast -	358	
2. New Lunatic Asylum - - -	312	
3. Petroleum warehouse - - -	317	
		987

III. Roads, grants to

1. Commissioners - - - -	4,450	
2. „ of city roads -	1,000	
		5,450
IV. Public Buildings - - - - -		4,444
Total - -		£28,943

VIII. *Legislation.*

25. The Acts passed during the year were not of much political or social importance, with the exception of one relating to emigration; but two important Acts incorporating companies for constructing a railway across the Island, and for erecting gas works in Bridgetown, were passed. The first of these is of local origin, and under local direction. The latter originated with a company formed in London. The following list contains all those Acts which indicate the current of Legislation during the year:—

Session of 1872–3, Acts Nos. 23 to 38.
„ of 1873–4, „ 1 to 21.

No. 24. For continuing in force the Board of Molehead Commissioners until the 6th April, 1876.

This prolongs the existence of a system which excludes the Governor from the inception, and a control over the expenditure, of almost all branches of public works.

Nos. 4 and 19. Acts for renewing the present temporary and unsatisfactory arrangement for the superintendence of public works.

Nos. 26, 3, and 13. Acts for providing increased accommodation and other improvements, also a salary for a resident surgeon, in the General Hospital.

No. 31 grants 25,000*l.* for the erection of a new Lunatic Asylum, to contain 250 patients.

Unfortunately the sum has been found insufficient to provide for so large a number of patients on the plans submitted to the Legislature, which has not since decided whether it will increase the grant, or diminish the accommodation, or make some material change in the character of the plans.

No. 32, for making provision for the better ordering and management of almshouses.

No. 35, for authorizing the Consolidated Board to provide for the employment, amusement, and instruction of the lunatics and lepers in the Lunatic Asylum and Lazaretto of this Island.

This Act originated in recommendations of the late lamented superintendent of these Institutions, Dr. F. Browne, which were founded on suggestions made in the Report of Dr. Gavin Milroy.

No. 27, for amending an Act providing exhibitions at the Codrington College Grammar School.

No. 9, for the encouragement of the youth of this Island in their educational studies, by granting an exhibition of 100*l.* a year for three years in aid of all successful competitors for the Gilchrist Scholarship.

No. 11, for guaranteeing the salaries of two additional masters for Harrison's School, henceforth to be called Harrison's College.

No. 34, for amending the laws relating to emigration from this Island.

This Act appoints an officer as superintendent of emigration, and requires the Governor in council to make rules for regulating emigration. Its object is to stop crimping, and all unlawful or baneful agencies; to supply information and assistance to persons wishing to emigrate; to superintend the provision, engagement, and shipment of emigrants, and to keep the Government informed of the number and description of emigrants leaving and returning to the Colony. Its operation hitherto has been very beneficial.

No. 12, for making provision for Bank holidays, corresponding to the recent English Act.

No. 13, for incorporating the Barbados Railway Company.

This Act incorporates a body of resident gentlemen as a company for the purpose of constructing and working railways within this Island. It guarantees 6 per cent. interest for 20 years on the amount spent in construction, to the extent of 100,000*l.* The scheme of the company is to run a line from Bridgetown through the centre of the Island to its windward side, and thence northward, near the shore, into the district called Scotland, about 21½ miles. If this should succeed, it is intended to continue the line to the northward into St. Lucy, then westward across that parish to Speight's Town, and back to Bridgetown. The extent of this addition would probably be 23 miles. The survey, plans, and estimates of the line into Scotland have been completed, and the directors are in correspondence respecting the raising of the necessary funds. They are empowered to raise 100,000*l.* in 5*l.* shares.

No. 6, for incorporating a joint stock company, with limited liability, for the purpose of making gas-works for the city of Bridgetown and its suburbs.

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This Act gives all necessary powers to the company required for construction and self-government, with an exclusive right of laying down gas-works in Bridgetown for 15 years; and it fixes a maximum price for the gas to be supplied. The capital of this company is also fixed at 100,000*l.* in 5*l.* shares.

No. 28, for printing a new edition of all the Acts of this Island, to be prepared by the Attorney and Solicitor General.

No. 8, for consolidating the Acts relating to the savings bank of this Island, which is the first of a series of Consolidation Acts, since completed, intended for insertion in the above new edition of the Acts.

IX. *Political Franchise; Councils and Assembly.*

26. Two members of the Councils, Messrs. S. Baird and Wm. Haynes, resigned their seats upon quitting the Colony permanently for England. The annual election of the House of Assembly took place on the 7th May. Two seats were contested. In one the old member was re-elected; in the other a change took place.

X. *Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials.*

27. The sanitary condition of the population was eminently satisfactory during the year, as the following statements will show; and a diminution in the number of baptisms, as compared with four out of the five preceding years, is not a subject for regret in an island which is already overpopulated.

Baptisms.

		Average.	
1868	6,563		
1869	6,359	6,530	
1870	6,667		6,651
1871	7,095		
1872	6,683	6,733	
1873	6,540		

Marriages.

		Average.	
1868	637		
1869	603	620	
1870	620		649
1871	757		
1872	656	679	
1873	623		

Burials.

		Average.	
1868	3,924		
1869	3,852	3,740	
1870	3,445		3,787
1871	3,858		
1872	4,330	3,835	
1873	3,316		

28. The number of baptisms, which had decreased by 5·8 per cent. in 1872, decreased further by 4·0 per cent. in 1873, making nearly

10 per cent. in the two years. The number in 1873 was less than in any of the six years except 1869. This may still be attributed in some degree to the effects of emigration in the present and past years, which will be shown under another head. That it was not the consequence of the usual check to increase, viz. disease and mortality, the usual results of impoverishment, is proved by the facts that the burials were 23·4 per cent. less than in the preceding year, and that the proportion of the annual excess of births over deaths, which averages 43 per cent., amounted last year to 49 per cent. It is possible that the rather large mortality of 1872 had some influence upon the birth rate of 1873.

29. A comparison of the two triennial averages of baptisms and burials shows that the former are increasing at the rate of 243 a year, while the latter are increasing at the rate only of 93 a year. The excess of births over deaths, which averaged in the first period 2,790, averaged in the latter 2,938.

30. This rate of progress would have brought the gross population up to 170,000 at the close of 1873, subject to deductions on account of emigration.

31. The extent to which this is likely to have influenced the birth rate is shown more clearly by an examination of the increase and decrease in the several parishes. There has been an increase in 1873, compared with the average of 1870–72, varying from 4·5 to 5·5 per cent. in the four parishes of St. Michael, which includes Bridgetown, St. George, St. John, and St. James. While in the other seven parishes, where the pressure of the recent dry years and the consequent emigration have been the greatest, there has been a decrease, varying from 6·2 to 23·0 per cent.

32. The proportion of the number of baptisms of persons born in years previous to the current and preceding ones was still decreasing.

In 1870	3·5 per cent.
„ 1871	3·2 „
„ 1872	2·8 „
„ 1873	2·4 „

but the proportion of those born in the preceding year was in excess of 1871 or 1872. An average of the four years may now be given :

Baptisms of Persons.

	Average of 1870-73.
In current year	72·6
„ preceding year	24·4
„ other years	3·0
Total	100·0

33. The record of marriages fluctuates too much to present any safe inference, beyond the fact that the large increase which took place in 1871–72 was not maintained in 1873. It is possible that the aggregate of those years was increased by many couples intending to emigrate, who had either been cohabiting previously, or desired to marry before leaving the Island.

34. The decrease in the number of burials in 1873 varied greatly

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in the several parishes. In the whole Island it was 23·4 per cent.; in Bridgetown and St. Michael's, 13·6; in the rest of the Island, 29·1: varying from an actual increase of 2·4 per cent. in St. Joseph to a decrease of 46·4, or nearly one half, in St. Lucy.

35. The decrease in the mortality at the earlier ages during the past year is very marked, not only as compared with 1872, which, through the large and unexplained increase in the aggregate mortality, may have been subject to some particular influences, but as compared with the average of the three years 1870–72, as shown in the following Table—a glance at which will manifest the approach to a natural rate of mortality in the past year:—

	Percentage of Mortality at each Age.			
	Average of 1870–72.	1873.	Difference.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
Under 1 year	34·1	30·	—	4·1
From 1 to 5 years	20·6	17·2	—	3·4
„ 5 „ 10 „	3.5	2·9	—	·6
„ 10 „ 15 „	1·9	2·4	·5	—
„ 15 „ 20 „	2·9	3·5	·6	—
„ 20 „ 30 „	6·7	7·4	·7	—
„ 30 „ 40 „	4·9	6·2	1·3	—
„ 40 „ 50 „	4·4	4·7	·3	—
„ 50 „ 60 „	4·0	5·4	1·4	—
„ 60 „ 70 „	5·2	5·9	·7	—
„ 70 „ 80 „	5·3	6·	·7	—
„ 80 „ 90 „	3·6	4·8	1·2	—
„ 90 „ 100 „	1·4	2·1	·7	—
Above 100 / Not stated / Still-born	1·5	1·5	—	—
Total	100·0	100·0	—	—

36. The irregularity noticed in the last Report with regard to the excess of mortality in the rural parishes among children under 5, and in the city parish among persons between 10 and 60, is again observable in the past year, as in each of the two preceding:—

	From Birth to 5 Years.		From 10 to 60 Years.	
	Town.	Country.	Town.	Country.
1870	52·4	52·9	31·3	21·0
1871	47·9	58·5	29·9	19·4
1872	52·5	58·3	31·1	22·9
1873	44·1	49·9	36·5	24·5

37. The proportion of males to females baptised in the two years 1872–73 is almost identical:—

Males	6,613
Females	6,610
Total	13,223

The proportion of males to females buried in the two years, excluding 44 whose sex was doubtful, shows a slight excess of males.

Males - - - - -	3,820
Females - - - - -	3,782
Total - -	7,602

XI. *Emigration.*

38. The first annual Report of the Superintendent of Emigration, appointed under the Act passed in February of this year to amend the laws relating to emigration from Barbados, affords some useful and interesting information.

39. The Emigration Office was opened on March 10. The leading objects of the Act were to prevent injustice and hardship to the labouring classes by interested parties holding out to them false inducements to emigrate; to furnish information to persons desirous of emigrating; and to secure, by a careful registration, an accurate knowledge of the progress and direction of the emigration from the Island. In all these respects the Act has operated well. Crimping has been to all appearance put down. The Emigration Office is freely resorted to. The Superintendent assists in various ways numbers who come to him for information or advice, and he prepares and publishes monthly a return of the extent and direction of the emigration.

40. His operations are thus described:—

"Emigrants offering voluntarily are submitted to searching questions; and by these means many runaways have been detected and restored to their parents; one or two attempts nearly related to child stealing have been defeated; and the business of recruiters, if not absolutely destroyed, has been materially circumscribed and checked. The office gives information to emigrants concerning all the circumstances of the Colonies to which they are going. It controls agents appointed to procure labourers for proprietors in other Colonies, having a special reference to a due proportion of female emigrants; and it carries out an arrangement established with the Governments of Demerara and Trinidad, by which the female relatives and children of settlers in those Colonies are forwarded to them. Vessels taking emigrants are ascertained to be seaworthy, and are inspected as to the extent and character of their cargoes, and steps are taken to secure as far as possible the safety and comfort of the emigrants." Detailed lists showing the description and relationship of the emigrants are sent to the Immigration Agent of the Colony to which they proceed.

41. The following is the number of emigrants from the opening of the office to the end of the year:—

Destination.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Demerara - - -	1,960	833	2,793
Nevis - - - -	2	—	2
Surinam - - -	5	5	10
Nickerie - - -	—	1	1
Trinidad - - -	20	4	24
Total - -	1,987	843	2,830

BARBADOS.

Thus Demerara absorbed almost the whole number. The proportion of males exceeded the double of females.

42. They were classified as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Barbadians—			
Agricultural labourers (adults) - -	955	277	1,232
Ditto from 8 to 14 - - - -	29	8	37
Other labourers (adults) - - -	689	299	988
Ditto 14 years and under - - -	235	253	488
Personators - - - - -	16	1	17
Strangers - - - - - -	63	5	68
Total - - -	1,987	843	2,830

By "personators" are meant persons who have embarked surreptitiously, in the place of persons who have passed the office, and been duly registered. "Strangers" are persons, not natives of Barbados, who have passed through the Island on their way to Demerara, or who, having come here to find work, have failed, and quitted for the larger Colony. The proportion of agricultural labourers is nominally 44 per cent., but it was probably less in reality, as at first many professed themselves to belong to that class in order to obtain the free passage given by the Government of Demerara.

43. Their social condition is shown in the following statements:— 33 husbands were taking their wives, 223 husbands were leaving their wives, 4 husbands were following their wives; 8 wives were leaving their husbands; 64 wives were following their husbands; 114 reputed husbands taking their reputed wives; 30 reputed husbands leaving their reputed wives; 8 reputed wives went, leaving their reputed husbands; 24 reputed wives went, following their reputed husbands; 17 widowers, 30 widows, and a few husbands and a few wives went whose mates were not accounted for. The rest were unmarried men and women, and children.

44. From the following Table of the emigration from each parish, it may be gathered that it was proportionately greater from most of the rural parishes than from Bridgetown and the suburbs, and that it was greatest from St. Peter and St. Lucy. In the latter the presence of repeated droughts had weighed most heavily upon the labouring classes and their employers: and it is probable that the facility of getting to Bridgetown, the port of embarkation, from St. Peter's parish, which adjoins it and shared its hardships, and the greater familiarity of its maritime population with the sea, may have had some influence in swelling the emigration from that locality.

45. During the year the appointment of six special agents to collect emigrants for proprietors in other Colonies was sanctioned, viz.: for Surinam, Nickerie, Trinidad, Grenada, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia, but, as has been shown, their efforts met with little success. The agencies for Surinam and Nickerie had long been in operation; the rules established by the Dutch Government for the protection of emigrants in those Colonies are satisfactory; the flow in that direction had received a check, and it was not judged necessary to stop this foreign agency; but applications for a similar appointment from St. Croix and Porto Rico were refused.

EMIGRATION from each PARISH, classed according to the proportion which it bore to the POPULATION enumerated in 1871.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Proportion to Population.
				per cent.
St. Peter	225	116	341	5·9
St. Lucy	156	79	235	4·8
Christ Church	255	116	371	3·8
St. Thomas	164	40	204	3·8
St. Andrew	109	36	145	3·6
St. Joseph	95	27	122	2·9
St. Philip	159	88	247	2·6
St. Michael	441	239	680	2·4
St. John	85	30	115	2·2
St. George	93	22	115	1·5
St. James	61	12	73	1·5
	1,843	805	2,648	—
Parishes not recorded	65	32	97	—
Personators and strangers	79	6	85	—
Total	1,987	843	2,830	—

46. Another good effect of the appointment of an Emigration Agent has been to call attention to the large number of persons either returning to Barbados or immigrating into it. The following is a return of those persons for the same period as that of emigrants. It shows a large number from all places, and 62 per cent. returning from Demerara. With regard to the others they are supposed to be nearly all speculators, making several voyages in the course of the year; and probably a fourth of these coming from Demerara and Trinidad belong to the same class.

From Demerara	1,729
„ Trinidad	372
„ Doubtful (by R. M. Steamers)	184
„ Other places	616
Total	2,901

47. The agent concludes his Report with the following observations upon the effects of emigration on the supply of labour, which ought to remove all objections on the part of the proprietors to such an efflux of the labouring classes as will prevent over-population, while it leaves an ample margin in the supply of labour:—"With "regard to the important question of the effect of emigration, past "and future, upon the supply of labour, the following considerations "will not be without interest. The Report of the Council of the "Agricultural Society for 1873 contains this passage: 'As a general "'rule the market for labour has been fairly supplied, and the "'deficiency has only been felt in certain districts. In St. Andrew's "'and St. Lucy's parishes, where the dry seasons have pressed "'heaviest and emigration has been most rife, skilled labour for "'cutting canes and such other work, done chiefly by men, has been "'deficient; but nowhere has estate work been brought to a stand-"'still, or materially retarded, the want having been supplied by "'women and children.'"

BARBADOS.

"Some planters tell me there is a pinch here and there; but the majority declare that there is abundance; and some say there is labour in excess. I cannot at present advance a sufficient and satisfactory number of facts; but there are one or two outstanding general facts that will aid in the solution of the question. (1) The average number of working days on an estate is five in a week. This causes a loss to every agricultural labourer of one-sixth of his time, and amounts in a year to two months; expressed in labour power, it shows that five-sixths of those employed can do the work. (2) In many parts of the country there are every year two months in which there is little or no work to be done, and the labourers are thrown on their own resources. Some find employment on the more elevated estates, on which the crops are later, and others find their way to town to pick up stray jobs. For the argument, let half find employment. Express this in time, and change the figures accordingly to one month. This gives one-twelfth of the time of the labourers lost. There are thus one-sixth and one-twelfth, that is one-fourth of a year lost to every labourer; that is, in other words, three-fourths of the agricultural labourers can do the work. Taking and rounding the figures of the census of 1871, there were 42,000 agricultural labourers. By the argument 31,500 can do the work on paper, and will do it in the fields, as soon as cheap and rapid locomotion is made available. By another calculation, taking the average cost of making a hogshead of sugar, and expressing the cost in terms of labour, I find that the whole expenditure in planting, reaping, and manufacturing a hogshead of sugar is very nearly half a man. Hence, taking the desirable crop of 60,000 hogsheads, 30,000 labourers are sufficient to produce them. These figures may be wide of the mark, and I venture to use them only with the repeated caution, that I am not in possession of a sufficiency of data for an accurate calculation. If, however, they approximate to the truth, the planters of Barbados have little grounds for immediate apprehension, even if the anticipated diminution of the Coolie arrivals in Demerara should increase the demand for Barbadians."

XII. *Education.*

48. The schools for the poor, aided by the Government, continued through the year to work on the plan introduced into the primary schools in 1866, of payment by results. Of primary schools there were 79, and of infant schools 67: total, 146. The number of infant schools has slightly increased, but of primary schools the number appears to be adequate for the children likely to present themselves under a system of free attendance.

49. The second complete circuit of examinations of infant schools, made since that description of schools has been in the receipt of grants proportioned to the success of the teaching, was reported on during the year, and exhibited a most satisfactory state of progress; for grants amounting to $394 arose out of the second series of examinations, against $267 in the first, the standards and premiums remaining the same,—an improvement, that is to say, of 47 per cent. The interval between the two circuits was a little under three years. Besides grants for the results of the teaching, there are fixed allow-

ances, and capitation grants, and allowances also for books and furniture.

50. The names on the registers of the infant schools are about 5,500, and on those of the primary schools nearly 8,000, in all 13,500; but the average attendance does not exceed 8,500 in the two descriptions of schools taken together.

51. The Government expenditure on these schools for the year was about 4,000*l.*; the fees paid by the children reached 1,150*l.* Vestry grants are the only remaining items of income of any importance, and they may be estimated at 500*l.*, making an expenditure of 5,650*l.* for 13,500 children, or 8*s.* 4*d.* per child, of which the Island Treasury contribution is 6*s.* One reason why respectable results may be obtained here at a comparatively low cost is that, the country being over populated, labour of all kinds is cheap, and many of the teachers live on small salaries, there being no more remunerative market for their labour.

52. Secondary education, which of late years had been badly provided for, made great progress in the year 1873, the liberality of the Legislature in endowing exhibitions to the "Lodge," a Grammar School in one of the country parishes, chiefly for boarders, and to "Harrison's," a Grammar School for only non-resident pupils, in Bridgetown, having raised the number at the former to some sixty, and at the latter beyond a hundred. As a result of late changes, not only are the lads thus enumerated being educated in the best manner, but a stimulus has been communicated to the preparation of their younger brothers and others, with a view to their competing for exhibitions in time to come, which cannot but conduce largely to the intellectual culture of the community.

53. The West Indian Gilchrist Scholarship for 1873 was awarded to Barbados, after she had been twice beaten in the competition by Trinidad and Demerara respectively. The successful candidate had been two years in residence at Codrington College as an Island scholar, his earlier studies having been pursued in his own home. The Legislature has passed an Act granting 100*l.* a year for three years to all successful candidates for the Scholarship from this Island.

XIII. *Gaols and Crimes.*

54. The following particulars, taken mainly from the Report of the chaplain of prisons, exhibit very satisfactory results for the past year. There has been a marked decrease in the number of committals, as compared with the preceding year:—

Males.

	1872.	1873.
Committed at Town Hall - - -	1,618	1,315
„ District C. - - - -	145	85
Total - -	1,763	1,400

Females.

	1872.	1873.
Committed at Glendiary - - -	702	535
„ District A. - - - -	720	678
Total - -	1,422	1,213

Juveniles.

Committed at District B. - - -	305	196
Total of Committals - - -	3,490	2,809

Showing a decrease of 681, or 19·5 per cent. in favour of 1873.

55. This decrease was distributed among the above three classes in the following proportions:—

Males - - - -	363	=	20·7 per cent.
Females - - - -	209	=	14·7 „
Juveniles - - -	109	=	35·6 „
Total - -	681		19·5 „

56. There has also been a decrease from 77 to 68 cases, equal to 11 per cent., in the number of criminals sentenced for higher offences at the Court of Grand Sessions.

57. Upon the subject of this decrease the chaplain writes:—"To "what this decrease, both in the total number of committals as well "as in the number sentenced for higher offences, is to be attributed, "I am at loss to state positively. Probably it may be traced to two "causes: First, to the more efficient manner in which the prison "discipline is maintained, the visiting Justices as a rule now awarding "commensurate punishment for each breach of prison discipline. "This was not the case some time ago, and was a matter of regret "with me; for I consider the punishment the most unmerciful which "by its mistaken lenity tempts to another commission of, perhaps, the "very same offence, when proper punishment in the first instance "would have prevented it. Secondly, to emigration having been put "on a proper footing by recent legislative enactment. I have been "led to this conjecture from finding there has been no decrease in "the number of persons committed for the first time (there has been "rather an increase amongst this class), but that the decrease is "wholly amongst the class of persons accustomed to be recommitted. "Of the 3,490 committed in 1872, 1,461, or 42 per cent., were re-"committals; whilst of the 2,809 committed in 1873 only 800, or "29 per cent., were recommittals. The decrease then has been "amongst the class of our old offenders, those whom the experience "of prison life, viz., the discipline to which they were subject when "in prison, deters from venturing into prison again—to some of such "this may act as a salutary check, and influence them to a better

" course of life—to others, habitual offenders, those who find that, " from old associations and from force of circumstances generally, to " remain here will only be to return to prison; to these we may " well imagine emigration offering a solution of the difficulty, and I " am induced to think, that to many of this class taking advantage of " the easy and safe means of emigrating is due this great decrease in " the recommittals to our prisons."

58. Of the 3,490 committed in 1872, 1,181, or 33 per cent., could read; of the 2,809 committed in 1873, 866, or 30 per cent., could read. This difference may have been caused by the decrease in the number of recommittals, among whom are criminals who have been taught to read while in prison.

59. The chaplain reports a decided improvement in the behaviour of the prisoners generally, especially among the males at Glendiary, which he attributes to the enforcement of strict discipline by the visiting justice. In 1872 there were 46 cases of breach of prison discipline tried by that officer, in 1873 only 19, a decrease of 58 per cent. The sanitary condition of the prisons is reported by the inspector " to be all that can be desired," notwithstanding the defective and often crowded condition of the Town Hall Prison, the improvement of which is now before the Legislature.

XIV. *Imports and Exports.*

60. Notwithstanding the unfavourable character of the year as regards the staple crop of the Island, the returns of imports and exports showed no great variation from those of the preceding year, but it was in favour of 1873. The value of imports had increased from 1,125,030*l.* to 1,193,814*l.*, or nearly 6 per cent. That of exports had increased from 1,021,443*l.* to 1,024,083*l.* From the following comparison with the last three years it will be seen that commerce has held its ground, and even gained some advance.

Total Value of Imports.

	£
In 1870	1,069,867
„ 1871	1,191,888
„ 1872	1,125,030
„ 1873	1,193,814

Total Value of Exports.

	£
In 1870	973,020
„ 1871	1,298,546
„ 1872	1,021,443
„ 1873	1,024,083

61. Of the total exports 65 per cent. consisted of native productions, being almost exclusively sugar, molasses, and rum. The balance

consists of the transit trade, which contributes largely and increasingly to the commercial business of the Island.

62. The exports of miscellaneous produce and manufactures consisted in the last three years of the following items:—

	1871.	1872.	1873.
	£	£	£
Aloes	1,046	1,530	348
Arrowroot	76	30	—
Bones	—	—	35
Cattle	216	—	—
Cotton	2,789	1,405	1,075
„ seed	150	206	400
Fruit and vegetables	881	2,420	3,557
Furniture	—	—	120
Groceries (succades and pickles)	296	416	193
Hides and skins	692	660	564
Harness	—	—	60
Lime for building	4,678	4,379	4,830
Matches, Lucifer, &c.	—	35	—
Oil, Whale	—	174	108
Petroleum	893	2,053	1,251
Sheep, Goats, &c.	42	—	—
Soda and Mineral Waters	2	—	—
Sugar, other than Muscovado or refined	—	—	—
Tamarinds	332	978	1,180
Total	12,093	14,286	13,721

63. It is noticeable in the preceding statement that the export of aloes and cotton has fallen off, and that of fruit, vegetables, and tamarinds is on the increase; that the export of petroleum fell off in 1873, and that the experiment of exporting home-made matches appears not to have succeeded.

64. In comparing the destination of the home produce in the two years 1872–3, there appears a falling off in the exportation to British North America, and an increase of sugar to the United States in the latter year:—

Countries.	Sugar.		Molasses.		Rum.	
	1872.	1873.	1872.	1873.	1872.	1873.
	hhds.	hhds.	puns.	puns.	galls.	galls.
United Kingdom	30,637	30,830	35	60	503	121
„ States	2,947	4,460	12,911	12,008	—	—
British North America	4,797	1,863	11,456	8,561	2,463	45
„ West Indies	137	190	34	280	—	—
Foreign „	—	100	—	80	—	—
British Guiana	—	40	—	—	—	—
Denmark	558	—	—	—	—	—
Total	39,076	37,483	24,437	20,989	2,966	166

65. The direction of the import and export trade has varied: the former chiefly by a falling off in the imports from Great Britain, and an increase in those from the United States, Peru, and Buenos Ayres; the latter chiefly by a falling off in exports to British North America,

and a corresponding increase in those to the British West Indies. The details are furnished in the following statements:–

IMPORTS.

	Value.			Percentage.		
	1871.	1872.	1873.	1871.	1872.	1873.
From—	£	£	£			
United Kingdom -	546,396	470,509	365,189	46·0	41·8	30·5
British Colonies - -	149,090	171,360	171,592	12·5	15·2	14·4
Foreign countries -	496,401	483,161	657,032	41·5	43·0	55·1
Total - -	1,191,887	1,125,030	1,193,813	100·0	100·0	100·0

NOTE.—Of 657,032*l.* imports from foreign countries, 485,275*l.* were from United States, and 129,725*l.* from Peru.

EXPORTS.

	Value.			Percentage.		
	1871.	1872.	1873.	1871.	1872.	1873.
From—	£	£	£			
United Kingdom -	609,869	470,525	471,175	47·1	46·0	46·0
British Colonies - -	415,278	398,928	388,791	32·0	39·0	37·8
Foreign countries -	273,398	151,990	164,116	20·9	15·0	16·2
Total - -	1,298,545	1,021,443	1,024,082	100·0	100·0	100·0

NOTE.—Of 164,116*l.* exports to foreign countries, 125,640*l.* were to United States, and 32,866*l.* to foreign West Indies.

66. The entries for consumption in 1873, as compared with 1872, indicate a certain, but not great, pressure on the purchasing powers of the population. It is not safe to draw any certain inference from a change in the entries of articles of food, because they depend in some degree upon the character of the crops of roots and native grain, which may to some extent be independent of the sugar crop. But he following figures show that there was no great variation in the last two years,—and an excess in most articles over 1871, which was a good year as regards the sugar crop:—

	1871.	1872.	1873.
Bread - - - - cwts.	33,665	36,018	37,060
Corn and grain - - bushels	247,352	298,281	283,746
Corn meal - - - - barrels	51,503	66,152	55,435
Fish, dried - - - quintals	87,092	99,170	83,901
„ pickled - - - barrels	17,673	19,426	10,652
Flour - - - - - „	39,311	40,703	38,121
Meat - - - - - - cwts.	10,428	10,778	11,190
Rice - - - - - „	55,674	61,783	46,232

The most significant item in the above is the falling off in the consumption of dried and pickled fish, which is one of the food condiments, or small luxuries, enjoyed by the labouring classes.

BARBADOS.

67. In some other articles consumed by the labouring and middle classes there were signs of a decreased consumption, sufficient to indicate the check upon indulgencies caused by the straitened condition of the planters and of the classes dependent upon them, viz.: butter, lard, coffee, tea, cigarettes, spirits of all kinds, cattle, horses, carriages, earthenware, furniture, groceries, jewellery, linens and cottons, musical instruments, and saddlery. These were partly balanced by an increase on a smaller number of the same class of articles, and there was a large increase in the importation of lumber, wood hoops, staves and shooks.

XV. *Shipping.*

68. The number and tonnage of British shipping, and the tonnage of foreign shipping which entered inwards in 1873 were slightly greater than in the preceding year. The number of foreign vessels is on the decrease; their average size is on the increase. The total number of ships is on the increase.

69. The number of British vessels arriving in ballast in 1873 was less than in 1872, but there was no falling off in their tonnage. The number and tonnage of foreign vessels arriving in ballast were considerably less. The number and tonnage both of British aud foreign vessels leaving in ballast were much greater, indicating the smallness of the sugar crop.

VESSELS IN BALLAST.

	1871.		1872,		1873.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Entered, British - - - -	107	11,396	91	8,559	74	8,702
„ Foreign - - -	22	2,325	20	1,341	12	873
Total - - -	129	13,721	111	9,900	86	9,575
Cleared, British - - -	76	12,248	97	16,838	118	22,178
„ Foreign - - - -	62	15,474	77	19,084	98	26,794
Total - -	138	27,722	174	35,922	216	48,972

70. There were considerable changes in the direction of the traffic. There was a slight falling off in the number and tonnage of vessels from the United Kingdom, and a corresponding increase in the traffic with the United States, an increase in the traffic with the foreign West Indies and foreign countries, the latter arising from large importations of guano from Peru, and of mules from Buenes Ayres. There was a large increase in the traffic with the United States and foreign West Indies, and a considerable decrease in that with the British North American Colonies and West Indies, and with other countries.

	1871.		1872.		1873.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Entered from—						
United Kingdom - - -	106	33,489	81	23,921	74	22,590
„ States - - - -	174	39,093	170	38,773	181	40,725
British N. American Colonies -	110	16,699	126	18,994	125	19,283
„ West Indies and Guiana	771	38,982	858	46,377	851	44,323
Foreign „ - -	99	6,014	95	5,560	107	6,421
Other countries - - - -	58	13,384	53	11,588	62	19,320
Whalers - - - - - -	9	1,100	6	244	6	738
Total - - -	1,327	148,761	1,389	145,457	1,406	153,400
Cleared to—						
United Kingdom - - -	74	29,512	60	21,864	59	22,868
„ States - - - -	85	17,979	44	8,621	73	15,730
British N. American Colonies -	76	11,169	71	10,727	53	9,167
„ West Indies and Guiana	867	56,006	945	65,558	936	59,098
Foreign „ - -	194	31,470	222	35,198	255	43,029
Other countries - - - -	26	1,512	36	3,135	24	2,259
Whalers - - - - - -	8	998	8	802	4	495
Total - - -	1,330	148,646	1,386	145,905	1,404	152,646

71. The percentage of the total tonnage which entered and cleared in the trade with each country was as follows:—

	Entered.			Cleared.		
	1871.	1872.	1873.	1871.	1872.	1873.
To and from—						
United Kingdom -	23	16	15	20	15	17
United States - -	26	26	27	12	6	10
British North America	11	13	13	8	7	6
„ West Indies -	17	18	17	29	33	29
„ Guiana - -	9	14	12	9	12	9
Foreign West Indies -	4	4	4	21	25	28
Dutch Guiana - -	—	—	—	—	1	1
Buenos Ayres - -	4	3	4	—	—	—
Peru - - - - -	4	1	5	—	—	—
Brazil - - - -	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other countries - -	2	5	2	1	1	—
	100	100	100	100	100	100

72. The proportion of British tonnage employed continued to increase, that of American returned to its amount in 1871, leaving a smaller balance to be distributed over other countries.

PERCENTAGE OF TONNAGE ENTERED.

	1871.	1872.	1873.
British - - -	70	71	72
American - - - -	21	19	21
French - - - -	4	2	3
German - - - -	1	2	2
Other - - - -	4	6	2
Total - - -	100	100	100

BARBADOS.

73. Among the occurrences of the year which is likely to have an important influence upon the well-being of the Island was the consecration and installation, on his arrival in the Colony, of the Rev. John Mitchinson, D.D., to be Bishop of Barbados, under the Act passed in June, 1872, to make provision for the appointment of a Bishop to exercise supervision over the clergy of the Anglican Church in Barbados, consequent upon the death of the late Bishop, and the decision of Her Majesty's Government to withdraw from all interference in the affairs of the Anglican Church in the Windward Islands. This Act facilitates the absence of the Bishop from the Island for a sufficient time to enable him to undertake a similar superintendence of the Anglican Church in other Islands of the Windward group, and there is no doubt that the limits of his future diocese will be co-extensive with that of the first Bishop of Barbados, excepting the Island of Trinidad, which has elected to separate itself from it.

74. As the year approached its close, the hopes of the planters with regard to the prospect of the sugar crop of 1874 met with a rude shock. Up to the end of October the rainfall had exceeded by half an inch the average of the first ten months of 1847–71, having been 46·67 inches against an average of 46·16. But the months of November and December fell greatly short of the average. The former gave only 1·76 instead of 7·08 inches; the latter, 2·83, instead of 4·50 inches. So dry a November had not been experienced since 1849. The aggregate rainfall of the year only reached 51·26 inches, which is 6·48 inches, or 11 per cent., below the average, and less than 3 inches above the aggregate of 1872, which had yielded so small a crop. The year closed with so dark a prospect. If it had been fully realized, the House of Assembly would have had occasion to transfer to the year 1874 even a more dismal character than that which it has ascribed to its predecessor. But a realized crop of upwards of 47,000 hhds., and the prospect at the present date of a crop of 62,000 hhds. in 1875, exceeding the largest that the Colony has ever made, has averted that calamity, and shed a cheering radiancy on the prospects and anticipations of the planters and agricultural population.

(Signed) RAWSON W. RAWSON,
Governor.

Government House,
October 30, 1874.

TOBAGO.

No. 6.

Lieut.-Governor USSHER to The COLONIAL OFFICE.

19, Bedford Place, Russell Square,
August 26, 1874.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, my Report upon the Blue Book for the year 1873 of the Colony of Tobago.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) H. T. USSHER,
Lieut.-Governor.

Robert G. W. Herbert, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. My anticipations of a heavy decrease in the revenue for the year 1873, expressed in Paragraph 5 of my Blue Book Report for 1872, have proved to be too well founded. A referenee to the Blue Book for 1873 shows a net decrease of 3,997*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*, or nearly 30 per cent. upon our last year's returns. I have so often referred to the causes of this decrease, that it is almost unnecessary for me again to bring before the notice of the Secretary of State, that the severe droughts of the last three years have almost paralized trade; and that our sugar crop for 1873 is little more than two-thirds of what might fairly have been expected. Up to the month of October the prospects were more promising; but the rains usually anticipated in November and December having totally failed, the growing canes were stunted and dried up, and the planters were left in as bad a position as in the preceding year.

I caused the strictest economy to be exercised in all branches of the public service; otherwise the deficit would have been more serious, and it will be observed that the Collector of Revenue reports more energy in the collection of taxes by sub-collectors.

The Immigration Fund remains as it was, and is now at interest in the Colonial Bank.

Public Debt.

2. Although there is no public debt, properly so called, the liabilities of the Colony fall a little short of 3,000*l.*, in which sum must be included arrears of pay to the various branches of the public service.

Public Works.

3. The Hospital still remains unfinished, owing to the want of funds; the only expenditure incurred has been in the repairs neces-

TOBAGO.

sary to public buildings, and upon the roads, which is slightly in diminution of the preceding year, and is in course of further reduction in the estimates for the current year.

The Jetty is finally completed; and the new crane has been erected at the end of it.

Legislation.

4. Some useful and important measures were passed during the year; amongst which the most remarkable are, the Act to disestablish the Church of England and to introduce religious equality, and the Act to amend the law relating to coroners.

The former of these will be referred to at greater length under the head of "Ecclesiastical."

The "Coroner's" Act requires some special notice. Upon my arrival in the Island, I found no special local enactment upon this head. Several coroners were appointed for the body of the Island, their proceedings being governed by the English law. A series of constables and other peace officers, receiving large fees, reported each case to the nearest coroner, who received a considerable sum, with mileage, for each inquest. It not unfrequently happened that constables were specially employed by individual coroners to watch for cases; and the result was, that occasionally discreditable scenes took place. Races between coroners and their following for the inquest; disputes as to priority of arrival on the spot; and, very frequently, the holding of unnecessary inquisitions. I ascertained that during the year, from the 1st September, 1872, to the 31st August, 1873, no less than 39 inquests had been held, out of a population of 17,000 people; and upon personally examining the inquisitions lodged with the Clerk of the Crown, I came to the conclusion that many of them were unnecessarily holden. As each inquest cost the public on an average 10*l.*, it was incumbent upon the Government to act at once. The Legislature shared their views, and passed the measure now happily in force.

Its provisions are shortly,

1. The appointment, ex officio, of each stipendiary magistrate as a coroner for his own district, at a salary of 40*l.* per annum.

2. The appointment of special coroners to act in case of the absence of such coroner; these latter being remunerated by a fee, to be deducted from the salary of the absent official, except in case of duly certified and unavoidable absence from sickness. (This clause has a wholesome effect, in tending to compel the attendance of magistrates within their districts.)

3. The considerable reduction of the heavy fees payable to constables and medical men.

The result of this measure has been, that for the ten months that the Act has been in operation, only 13 inquests had been held. A clause, subjecting coroners to the penalties of the English law for neglect of duty, effectually provides against any possible indisposition to attend and hold the necessary inquisitions.

As the House of Elective Legislative Assembly had been ten years in Session, with the permission of the Secretary of State, I dissolved it in September. Four of the old members lost their seats

at the new elections, including Mr. Sealy, one of the Executive Committee, who was succeeded therein by Mr. Dougald Yeates.

Political Franchise.

5. The dissolution of the Assembly above referred to, conferred for the first time upon the electors of Tobago the extended franchise of the Act of 1871.

Civil Establishments.

6. The principal occurrence under this head was the sudden death in October of Mr. Samuel H. Hill, the Colonial Secretary. Mr. Hill's post was temporarily occupied in an able manner by Mr. John W. Elliot; and has since been filled by the appointment thereto of Mr. Henry Byng, late Colonial Secretary at the Falkland Islands.

A few special coroners have been appointed under the new Act.

Population.

7. I have little to add to my last Report. The normal increase appears, however, to have been more healthy, and the medical men report less mortality among infants.

Some loss has been suffered by emigration to Trinidad; but many have returned, and the advent of more favourable seasons will soon bring back the remainder, and check the disposition to seek labour and employment elsewhere, which the droughts and depression of the planting interests have for a time induced.

Ecclesiastical.

8. The introduction of the Act for establishing religious equality and for disestablishing the Church of England takes effect from January 1, 1874.

A yearly vote of 1,060*l.* had been hitherto allotted to the Anglican Church. This sum is now divided amongst the three following denominations:—

	£	
Anglican - - - -	615	per annum
Moravian - - - -	230	„
Wesleyan - - - -	215	„

This distribution is based upon a strictly numerical calculation.

I regret not yet to observe either the energy to adapt itself to altered circumstances on the part of the Anglican Church which I had hoped for, or the disposition to afford voluntary aid on the part of its members, which might fairly have been expected; but it is perhaps premature to judge of this matter. And indeed I yet have a strong belief that the Anglicans in Tobago will, under the energetic guidance of their recently elected Diocesan, Dr. Mitchinson, Bishop of Barbados, eventually develop and maintain a system of self-support, in common with their colleagues of the other Christian denominations.

Education.

9. Nothing has yet been done to improve the educational system, beyond a meeting of clerical and lay members of the various Christian denominations to discuss the point. Considerable diversity of opinion prevailed; and finally, the Chairman handed me a series of suggestions and resolutions, with some of which I agreed; while some of the other propositions were dissented from both by Dr. Mitchinson and myself.

Events of great political importance to the Island have for the present kept the question back; but with the change recently effected in the constitution of the Colony, and the improved facilities now to be had for legislation, I have no doubt that this important subject will receive the attention it merits.

Imports and Exports.

10. Any detailed reference to these would be a needless repetition of our misfortunes. Suffice it to say that 1873 left them in the lowest state of depression.

Shipping and Agriculture.

11. I have nothing to add on this head to my Report for 1872.

Criminal Statistics.

12. As this is the first Return made in this form for Tobago, I am not in a position to compare the official statistics of the two years.

But the magistrates of late have reported to me a marked diminution in petty crime; and I incline to think that this is attributable to a little wholesome additional severity on their part, the employment of which I have felt it my duty to inculcate for the suppression of the numerous petty offences which swell our criminal returns.

Some additional prison rules, passed in Privy Council, providing for the more stringent exercise of prison discipline and punishment, have had a good deterrent effect, and the prison punishments appear to me to be diminishing also.

Gaols.

13. I have no remarks to make on this subject, except that I have been enabled, to a certain extent, to remedy the deficiencies of which I complained in Paragraph 52 of my Report for 1872. There is yet room for improvement; but I have again to commend Mr. Crooks for his care and for his able adaptation of the insufficient means at his command.

Charitable Institutions.

14. It is with regret that I have to report no real amendment in the administration of pauper relief. A measure which I caused to be introduced with the view of amending the evil met with a defeat in the Lower House for no ostensible reason. I have, however, limited the vote to 300*l.* for this year, which is a decrease of 200*l.* on the last.

General Remarks.

15. The year 1873 will be remembered as a most disastrous year in this Colony. A heavy deficit in the Treasury, a half-crop of canes, and a corresponding decrease in the imports are the results of the visitation of dry weather, to which the Island has for so long been subject.

16. Still, I see signs of improvement. The weather for this year (1874) has been hitherto as favourable as could be desired, and a large crop of canes is expected. The performance of public duty by the various officers is visibly improved, and it affords me pleasure to certify to the fact.

17. One or two severe punishments lately inflicted on certain individuals for smuggling and oppression of labourers have, I trust, had a salutary effect.

18. The change of constitution recently effected cannot but be beneficial to the Island. Moreover, I am glad to say that up to the present time (August, 1874) some permanent retrenchments have been effected.

About 375*l.* per annum will have been saved by the "Single "Chamber Bill;" 100*l.* p. a. by a measure to consolidate the offices of Marshal and Police Inspector; about 175*l.* p. a. by the Coroner's Act; 200*l.* p. a. by the New Road Act; and with some other smaller retrenchments and savings I may say that the permanent expenditure is reduced by 900*l.* per annum. This is a fair percentage upon an average revenue of 11,000*l.*; and I hope yet to secure additional efficiency, with further reductions in other directions.

19. The great question of the day in the West Indies still remains to be solved, viz., whether by the introduction of an improved system of culture and manufacture the West Indian planter, now so depressed, cannot be made to compete in the sugar market with other Colonies. The central factory system is the only method of effecting this. Tobago is for many reasons (especially social and political ones) remarkably well adapted for the system; and Lord Carnarvon may rest assured that until I am satisfied that this my object is not capable of realization, I shall not relax in my efforts to introduce into the Island a system which must eventually result in the moral elevation and practical well-being of the African, and in the salvation from ruin of the West Indian planter and capitalist.

(Signed) H. M. USSHER,
Lieut.-Governor.

London, August 26, 1874.

DOMINICA.

DOMINICA.

No. 7.

No. 7.

Governor IRVING, C. B., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Antigua, July 27, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Presidency of Dominica for the year 1873, with a report thereon by the President of that Island.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY T. IRVING,
Governor.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 7.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1873.

The finances of the Presidency are in a healthy state, and the taxation is moderate, not being over 10*s.* 6*d.* per head.

The revenue from all sources for the past four years has been—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1870	15,721	9	8
1871	15,439	18	4
1872	17,310	1	10½
1873	16,424	3	0

The decrease in revenue in 1873 as compared with 1872 may thus be accounted for:

Decrease.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imports	657	19	10½
Excise	388	17	4½
Liquor and Still Licences	128	1	8
Fines and Forfeitures	114	2	3½
Roads	231	12	3
Miscellaneous	226	14	5½
Total	£1,747	7	11

Increase.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Exports	111	7	8½
Sale of Government Property	471	8	1½
Crown Land	146	7	3
Miscellaneous	134	5	11½
Balance	883	18	10½
Total	£1,747	7	11

This balance may fairly be augmented by adding the receipts under Sale of Government Property 471*l.* 8*s.* 1½*d.*, and Sale of Crown Land 146*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, neither of which sources can fairly be estimated as revenue. The unusually large imports of 1872, while conferring a temporary benefit to our finances, foreshadowed that reaction which inevitably follows overtrading, and from which the Presidency suffered during the year.

The expenditure for the past four years has been:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1870	15,248	4	2½
1871	16,071	7	7½
1872	17,162	7	7
1873	17,584	8	7½

The increased expenditure between 1873 and 1872 may thus be accounted for:—

Increase.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Civil Establishment	246	7	4½
Roads and Bridges	160	12	2½
Pensions and Allowances	281	3	3
Drawback	246	15	11½
Crown Land	130	1	7
Miscellaneous	529	2	6
Arrears of 1872	555	4	1½
Total	£2,149	17	0

Decrease.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Public Buildings and Works	731	15	2½
Board of Health	855	9	6½
Printing and Stationery	113	10	2½
Miscellaneous	77	10	2
Balance	371	11	10½
Total	£2,149	17	0

Thus the apparent excess was only 371*l.* 11*s.* 10½*d.*, against which may be placed payments on account of Crown Land Fund 130*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, and arrears of 1872, 555*l.* 4*s.* 1½*d.*

The balance in hand on the 31st December, 1873, was 2,880*l.* 10*s.* 9½*d.*, the larger portion of which is in deposit at interest in the Colonial Bank.

Public Debt

Has been reduced to 4,818*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

The following Tables exhibit the imports and exports from 1870 to 1873:—

DOMINICA.

IMPORTS.

Years.	From			
	Great Britain.	British West Indies.	Foreign West Indies.	United States.
	£	£	£	£
1870	22,505	30,926	6,672	177
1871	23,357	33,136	4,888	600
1872	22,257	39,976	6,651	—
1873	18,663	37,307	6,582	—

EXPORTS.

Years.	To			
	Great Britain.	British West Indies.	Foreign West Indies.	United States.
	£	£	£	£
1870	56,405	3,381	1,928	533
1871	49,940	2,424	1,131	1,463
1872	56,606	3,945	1,034	259
1873	54,292	4,001	3,591	136

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF PRODUCE EXPORTED FOR FOUR YEARS.

Years.	Sugar.		Molasses.		Rum.		Coffee.	
	Cwts.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.
		£		£		£		£
1870	73,026	51,147	88,732	2,732	36,021	2,337	10,603	989
1871	66,219	46,356	94,015	1,921	40,615	2,545	15,734	379
1872	61,418	51,558	105,282	3,476	24,630	1,543	12,466	337
1873	69,300	51,927	95,613	2,801	16,282	1,140	13,319	403

Years.	Cocoa.		Farine Manioc.		Lime Juice.		Tamarinds.		Logwood.		Firewood.	
	Lbs.	Value.	Bushs.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Pack.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Cords.	Value.
		£		£		£		£		£		£
1870	135,439	2,525	16	6	1,904	83	102	62	2	4	634	337
1871	203,433	2,319	3	1	3,593	170	7	10	19	23	670	373
1872	204,773	2,546	246	63	5,932	691	131	55	20	33	853	453
1873	186,688	2,216	741	180	7,317	738	260	173	8	14	1,139	592

Both the import and export duties require adjustment; in one the necessaries of life are equally taxed with its luxuries; and in the other by far the most profitable article of export is allowed to pass without affording any contribution to the revenue.

Legislation.

Sixteen Acts became law during the year. Amongst the most useful measures may be named the Acts, establishing a savings bank; regulating the carriage of passengers by sea; authorizing the employment of male convicts beyond the walls of the gaol; providing for a public cemetery; removing gunpowder and petroleum from the town of

Roseau; securing a patent to Thomas Routledge for improvements in treating fibrous substances for textile purposes, and for the manufacture of paper stock.

Civil Establishment.

President Moir being promoted was succeeded by President Eldridge. The Acting Local Attorney-General Lloyd's Commission was cancelled, and Mr. John Frederick Wylde assumed the duties of Treasurer.

Pensions.

A late revenue officer, Mr. J. B. Dupigny, was pensioned for long services at 77*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and Mr. Joseph Fadelle, late messenger of Council, was also pensioned at 34*l.* per annum.

Population.

From the Report of the Registrar-General, the population has slightly increased, and may be estimated at 27,956.

Public Works.

The erection of the handsome iron bridge over the Roseau River, at a cost of 1,452*l.*, was finally completed this year. On sanitary as well as moral grounds, and as a work of great public convenience, this structure deserves special notice. It was commenced under the auspices of his Honour Administrator Porter, and has been erected by Mr. Civil Engineer G. B. Blanc. The bridge, whether admired for its scenic effect upon the river and surrounding country, its public utility, its tendency to enhance the value of adjacent property, or its moral and social bearing upon the people, who can now pass and repass the Roseau River without offence either to public decency or their own feelings of modesty and decorum. The public buildings generally have been more or less repaired, but the outlay on the gaol was considerable. A jetty was commenced to the rock; the table *à diable*, but was subsequently abandoned on account of the ineligibility of the site; it has been commenced more in the centre of the town and contiguous to the spot at which His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh landed many years since.

Education.

I append the Inspector's Report, my own recent arrival prevents my offering any comments upon this subject; but I may cursorily remark that, from the number of children at school, it is quite clear that anything short of a compulsory Education Act will not answer for a people, few of whom have had sufficient educational advantages offered to themselves to cause them to appreciate its results; and therefore it is not surprising that they do not seek for their children what they themselves do not sufficiently value. There are many honourable exceptions to this rule. Of this I am satisfied, that there is no want of natural talent. I firmly believe that it is of vital im-

portance to the future of the West Indies that this great question should at once be taken in hand.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

The births during the year were 879, and the deaths 536, showing a decrease as compared to the previous year, 82 births and 2 deaths. In the absence of any special mortality this decrease of births may fairly be attributed to laxity of registration.

I regret to say the number of marriages was only 178, against 392 the year before.

Ecclesiastical.

There is no Government aid granted to any denomination.

The Anglican Church numbers about 900 members, with one Clergyman, and one place of worship.

The Roman Catholic Church claims some 24,000 within its fold. The Rev. Bishop of Roseau resides in the Island, and is assisted by 11 priests. There are 16 churches throughout the island.

The Wesleyan Missionary Society numbers about 2,300 members, There are two ministers and two places of worship.

General.

The great drawback in this Presidency is the difficulty of locomotion. During a recent tour round the Island, the importance of improved means of communication was very much impressed upon me, not only for the convenience of travellers and the transit of produce, but for the opening up of "new country," encouraging settlers, enhancing the value of property generally; and last, not least, enabling the Executive to go beyond the narrow bounds of Roseau or the valley into the outlying parishes. I visited one place in St. Andrew's parish, Ville Case, where I was informed that I was the first Executive officer that had been there since 1864.

It appears to me that, beyond a general improvement of the roads and the erection of bridges over one or two of the principal rivers, steam communication would be of infinite value to the population. The conveyance of persons or goods by canoe must at least be very limited, while it is costly, uncertain, and dangerous. A little coasting steamer, calling in at different points along the coast, would be the means of encouraging agriculture and habits of industry by affording facilities for bringing goods to market.

I may add, the Legislature have early this year passed a Road Bill, which, from its freedom of cumbrous machinery and direct application of Executive authority, will, it is to be hoped, be the means of materially improving the roads. It is fervently to be desired that steam communication will not be lost sight of.

The matter that ranks next in importance is the proper management of the Crown Lands; want of system, laxity in supervision, and the acceptance of money and permissive tenure from and by persons desirous of purchasing Crown land, has created a great confusion, and

to a certain extent legalized, by long possession, squatting. The latter vicious system tends to demoralize, withdraws labour from legitimate channels, while it affords an easy and ready means for the indolent to acquire sufficient for the wants of the day.

A careful examination of this important subject, a remodelled system of sale of land, and a strict adherence to the rules laid down for its transfer, are imperatively necessary.

The necessity of extended medical provision for the people is much wanted. From the mountainous character of the Island the population is divided into detached groups, congregate for the most part in towns, villages, and hamlets, medical advice is beyond their reach, and in the absence of any Government medical provision, medical aid is almost unknown among the people. This great want is keenly felt, and must tend to foster disease, by leaving the people in the hands of quacks and obeah men. I am happy to say the Assembly have taken up the question this year (1874), and passed an extended Medical Aid Act, which I trust, will be the means of bringing thousands under the reach of the experience and skill of the profession.

In concluding my Report I fell bound to take exception to the remarks of the Registrar-General with reference to the younger portion of the population. As far as my observation extends during my tour round the Island and a residence of over a year in the principal town, Roseau, I have always considered the young people as robust and healthy, and I have seen no evidences of a "puny, feeble, or morbid "condition," nor have the infantile portion of the population impressed me as being sickly or evincing any symptoms of want or neglect. I have called upon the only district medical officer in the Island for a report on the state and condition of the people in his district.

West India hospitality is proverbial, but in no part of these sunny isles can it be offered with more genuine earnestness and kindness than in Dominica. Long and weary journeys on horseback necessitate rest for man and beast, and before you can make your apologies for your intrusion to a perfect stranger, a welcome is cordially offered to you. This feeling even extends to the humbler class of people in villages, and in the little roadside cottages a friendly greeting and offer of refreshment is cordially made.

The manifest loyalty of the masses as you pass along is very gratifying, but there is no race more loyal or law-abiding than the people of these Islands, and the calendars of our criminal court seldom present cases of any magnitude.

(Signed) C. M. ELDRIDGE,
President.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 8.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 8.

Administrator BAYNES to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
December 26, 1874.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the year 1872.

2. The delay which has taken place in forwarding this Blue Book is partly explained by the President, and may perhaps be also attributed to the smallness of the President's clerical staff.

3. President Hickson's Report is also transmitted.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) EDWIN BAYNES,
Administrator.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

President HICKSON to Administrator BAYNES.

Tortola, October 12, 1874.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book for the Presidency of the Virgin Islands for the year 1872, which I presume should have been forwarded in due course had not unavoidable delay been caused by the many changes which took place under the new system of Confederation.

Revenue Expenditure.

2. The Revenue for the year was, as far as I can gather from the Treasury books, 1,517*l.* 0*s.* 4½*d.*, together with a balance remaining to the credit of the Presidency of 168*l.* 14*s.* 1¼*d.* from the prior year, making a total of revenue for 1872 of 1,685*l.* 14*s.* 5¾*d.*

The amounts collected under the several heads for the years 1871 and 1872 are as follows:—

Receipts in	1871. £	s.	d.	1872. £	s.	d.
Customs	933	19	6¾	943	2	7½
Licences	191	17	11	133	13	11
Taxes	366	6	2¼	288	19	9¾
Post Office	15	3	10½	19	12	1¼
Fines and Penalties	24	10	11	11	11	4
Registering Deeds	17	4	11	8	12	6
Restoration of public buildings	78	9	0½		—	
Miscellaneous	546	5	0¼	111	8	1
Balance from 1870	112	2	11¾		—	
„ „ 1871		—		168	14	1¼
Total	2,286	0	5¼	1,685	14	5¾

The Expenditure for 1872 was 1,631*l.* 6*s.* 8¾*d.*, leaving a balance at the end of the year to be carried forward to 1873 of 54*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*

Legislation.

3. Five Ordinances were passed during the year 1872.

No. 1. An Odinance for making further provisions for raising a revenue for the support of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

No. 2. An Ordinance to define certain duties, and to provide a salary and allowance for the President of the Virgin Islands.

No. 3. An Ordinance for granting a retiring allowance to the Hon. Joseph Gibson Gordon, of these Islands.

No. 4. An Ordinance for providing and regulating the salaries which in future shall be paid to the public officers in the Virgin Islands.

No. 5. An Ordinance to fix a salary for the President, and to vest certain powers in him.

Births during the Year 1872.

District.	Year.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Total.
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
A. - - -	1872	19	11	6	2	38
B. - - -	,,	8	6	1	4	19
C. - - -	,,	7	8	3	5	23
D. . - - -	,,	24	22	13	29	88
E. - - -	,,	9	7	8	3	27
F. - - -	,,	5	7	2	1	15
		72	61	33	44	210

Deaths during the Year 1872.

	Under 1 year.		From 1 to 10 years.		From 11 to 20 years.		From 21 to 30 years.		From 31 to 40 years.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1872	10	13	4	9	7	7	10	9	6	7

	From 41 to 50 years.		From 51 to 60 years.		From 61 to 70 years.		Upwards of 70 years.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1872	9	5	2	2	7	7	9	11	64	70

Deaths, 1872.

LEGITIMATE.

Males.						Females.					
Under 1 year.	From 1 to 2 years.	From 2 to 3 years.	From 3 to 4 years.	From 4 to 5 years.	Total.	Under 1 year.	From 1 to 2 years.	From 2 to 3 years.	From 3 to 4 years.	From 4 to 5 years.	Total.
8	—	—	3	1	12	7	1	—	1	2	11

ILLEGITIMATE.

1	2	1	—	1	5	1	2	2	3	1	10

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Causes of Deaths during the Year 1872.

Accidental	8
Cancer	1
Consumption	27
Convulsions	4
Dentition	4
Dissipation	2
Dropsy	10
Drowning	3
Dysentery	9
Fever	20
Heart disease	4
Inflammation	10
Injuries	2
Jaundice	2
Liver complaint	6
Natural decay from old age	5
Paralysis	2
Stillborn	1
Tetanus	4
Ulcers	6
Worms	3
Madness	1
	134

Vaccination.

4. By the surgeon's Report of 24th July last, that no vaccination has been carried on in these Islands since 1871, he also remarks that he has often applied for vaccine lymph without success, but he received some from his predecessor which, from age, proved unsuccessful, and he draws my attention to the fact, that neither smallpox or other epidemic disease has occurred in these Islands since the year 1857.

5. I trust your Excellency will be pleased to excuse this short Report, having been obliged to pick out what information I could from the Treasury books, not being myself acquainted with any of the facts, and the officers from whom I should expect information on the subject having been all lately installed in office since Confederation.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) R. M. HICKSON,
President.

The Governor-in-Chief of Leeward Islands,
Antigua.

GAMBIA.

No 9.

The OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

SIR, Government House, September 23, 1873.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1873, together with my report thereon.

Revenue.

The total revenue in 1873 amounted to 19,335*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, including the sum of 4,505*l.* the produce of the sale of New Zealand Bonds, and of Bills for 500*l.* drawn on the Crown Agents.

The actual receipts from all sources, exclusive of those amounts, were 14,330*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, showing a decrease, when compared with the revenue of the previous year, of 2,919*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*

Customs.

	1872.			1873.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Wine	1,452	8	1	1,166	11	7
Spirits	2,094	2	6	849	13	1
Tobacco	1,655	0	11	1,408	14	9
Sugar	378	14	8	279	3	4
Kolah nuts	1,257	9	11	761	4	10
Palm wine	520	4	9	438	1	4
Guns	196	16	6	319	6	0
Gunpowder	123	14	5	135	8	2
Bricks	84	4	4	31	0	5
Ground nuts	3,249	16	5	2,882	16	7
Hides	83	10	4	81	6	6
Ad valorem	1,483	5	11	1,534	5	2
Quarantine	81	18	0	67	4	0
Tonnage	1,665	17	0	1,109	11	0
Pilotage	555	18	0	387	12	0
	£14,883	1	9	£11,451	18	9

The decrease is most marked in the importation of wine, tobacco, and spirits, for which I am unable to account, while a slight increase took place in the articles paying an ad valorem duty.

The trifling fluctuations in the other heads of revenue do not call for special remark.

Expenditure.

The expenditure of 1873, amounting to 24,068*l* 14*s.* 9*d.*, exceeds that of 1872 by 6,194*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* In this expenditure, however, is included the sum of 4,290*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* for the construction of the

GAMBIA.

Colonial steamer "St. Mary," and the expenses incurred in bringing her out to the Settlement, as well as the sum of 1,484*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.* incurred for defensive measures in Combo.

I append a Table of the comparative revenue and expenditure of 1872 and 1873. (Marked A.)

Imports and Exports.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The value of the imports in 1872 was -	123,088	12	8
In 1873 - - - - - -	114,404	17	11
Showing a decrease of - - - -	£8,683	14	9
	£	*s.*	*d.*
The total of the exports in 1872 was -	127,225	18	5
In 1873 - - - - - -	110,816	19	3
Showing a decrease of - - - -	£16,408	19	2

Shipping.

The amount of tonnage varied slightly in the two years 1872–1873, being respectively 41,389 and 38,979. In the latter year an increase in British tonnage appears to the extent of 853 tons; it is, however, to be remarked that the cargoes of these vessels, namely, ground nuts, are carried to French ports.

The militia at McCarthy's Island is composed of three officers and forty men, who are called out for drill twenty-eight days in each year, and for active service whenever required.

The militia at British Combo, under Ordinance No. 1, of January, 1873, consists of such a number of men as may be deemed expedient.

Public Works.

The general repairs to public buildings amounted to 710*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, and the repairs to drains, &c., in the town of Bathurst, 261*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*

Legislature.

Eleven Ordinances were passed during the year, the most important of which was "An Ordinance for the Abolition of Imprisonment for Debt, and for the Punishment of Fraudulent Debtors."

Schools.

I have much pleasure in reporting an increase in the number of schools of the Established Church. Besides the Colonial School, one has been established in Bathurst and another at Cape St. Mary; the two latter supported by voluntary contribution.

The number of children receiving instruction at the three schools is 159. There is also a Sunday-school, the attendance at which is 35.

TABLE A.

REVENUE.

	1872. £	s.	d.	1873. £	s.	d.
Customs	14,883	1	9	11,451	18	9
Licences	963	3	0	1,015	15	0
Land Revenue	175	12	9	176	4	6
Rents, exclusive of Land	515	17	7	680	19	5
Fines, Forfeitures, &c.	249	14	8	283	15	8
Miscellaneous Receipts	72	0	6	5,391	17	0
Reimbursements in Aid	94	10	3	64	9	5
Postage	41	2	6	53	19	7
Sale of Government Property	17	10	5	36	3	11
Auction Duty	19	3	3	28	11	7
Interest on 4,400*l.* invested by the Crown Agents	215	17	6	108	7	11
Special Receipts	1	15	0	43	0	0
Total £	17,249	9	2	19,335	2	9

EXPENDITURE.

	1872. £	s.	d.	1873. £	s.	d.
Salaries, fixed	8,753	3	7	8,061	1	5
„ provisional	159	11	3	352	9	2
Allowances	356	11	3	344	10	3
Contingencies	71	1	1	57	9	3
Pensions, &c.	1,321	5	4	1,369	12	5
Revenue Services, exclusive of Establishment	339	16	10	480	13	3
Administration of Justice, exclusive of Establishment	104	13	3	226	12	2
Charitable Allowances	166	19	0	158	0	0
Education, exclusive of Establishment	328	16	0	267	14	10
Hospital, exclusive of Establishment	449	7	8	298	18	7
Police and Gaols, exclusive of Establishment	1,124	14	10	1,569	1	1
Rent	50	0	0	50	0	0
Transport	94	17	4	558	15	8
Works and Buildings	1,887	15	4	784	6	4
Roads, Streets, and Bridges	682	9	1	480	14	11
Miscellaneous Services	500	5	2	977	15	0
Aborigines	526	9	10	761	14	4
Government Vessels, exclusive of Establishment	—			4,290	6	2
Drawbacks, &c.	92	2	2	199	4	8
Special Services	864	18	0	1,839	18	3
Conveyance of Mails	—			931	2	0
Ecclesiastical, exclusive of Establishment	—			8	15	0
Total £	17,873	17	0	24,068	14	9

GAMBIA.

There has been some decrease in the attendance at the Wesleyan schools.

The number of scholars at the Roman Catholic schools is 200. The erection of a large school-room was commenced during the year by the Roman Catholic Mission, assisted by contributions from the public, which, when completed, will be open to children of all denominations.

Gaols.

The total number of prisoners committed in 1873, compared with that in 1872, shows a decrease of 24; the total commitments in 1872, 218; and in 1873, 194. In 1872, 19 of the number committed had been previously convicted once, 18 twice, and 5 thrice or more. In 1873 there is a considerable decrease in the first two classes; while the third is doubled, 2 once, 8 twice, 10 thrice or more.

The gaol is well ventilated, and its cleanliness has been well attended to.

General Remarks.

As I assumed the Administration late in the year, a part only of my Report on the general state of the Settlement is from personal observation.

The health of the Settlement was good; the year was not marked by any epidemic, nor were there any severe cases of fever. No mortality occurred among the white residents. No disturbances took place in the Settlement itself; the people were quiet and orderly; but among the neighbouring tribes the usual hostilities, not producing any marked results, were carried on.

A treaty was negotiated by the Acting Administrator with Mahmood Derry Bah, Chief of Baddiboo, who, in consideration of a subsidy from the Government, undertook to afford protection to British subjects trading on the river, and to give redress for any injuries inflicted by persons under his authority.

At the commencement of the year the Acting Administrator, being led to believe from information received that British Combo was threatened with an invasion by the Marabouts, adopted defensive measures to meet the emergency, which appear to have been successful, and a treaty was negotiated with the head men of the Combo Marabouts, by which they undertook to respect British subjects and property. The terms of the treaty appear to have been fairly observed.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT,
Administrator.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 10.

Governor Sir H. BARKLY, K.C.B., G.C.M.G., to
The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Government House, Cape Town, July 27, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of the Cape of Good Hope for the year 1873.

2. No department having yet been organized for collecting and reporting on the annual statistics of the Colony, I shall continue, notwithstanding the change in the form of Government, to offer such remarks as suggest themselves to my mind on an examination of the Returns transmitted.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The state of the finances continued most satisfactory. The total receipts during the year, excluding loan transactions, amounted to 1,218,620*l.*, a net increase of 170,870*l.* over those of 1872, and a still larger excess over the amount estimated. Nearly half the increase arose under the head of Customs.

The disbursements from the Treasury, on the other hand, were so largely swollen by advances for the purchase of the Cape Town and Wellington Railway, for the construction of other lines in progress, and by transactions connected with the reduction and consolidation of the Public Debt, that it is difficult to form any correct idea from the comparative Returns for the two years appended.

According, however, to the figures given by the Colonial Secretary in his budget speech, the ordinary expenditure brought to account in 1873 was 773,984*l.* (or about a hundred thousand pounds beyond that of 1872), whilst 133,300*l.* remainded due at its close on votes of last Session, thus showing an actual surplus of revenue over expenditure of upwards of 300,000*l.*

Public Debt.

The effect of the application of this credit balance to the reduction of the liabilities of the Colony was very satisfactory, though not at first sight perceptible from the Return under the above head, which exhibits, on the contrary, a continued augmentation, notwithstanding that, to loans to the amount of 260,000*l.* paid off in 1872, may now be added 164,000*l.* paid off during 1873. This arises from the issue of debentures to the extent of 704,500*l.* on account of the purchase of the Cape Town and Wellington Railway, included for the first time, but which form no real increase of indebtedness, as interest amounting to 30,000*l.* per annum had been guaranteed for fifty years to the company by whom the line was constructed.

Public Works.

The acquisition of this line indeed, which was indispensable to the Colony, with a view to railway extension from the western districts

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

towards the diamond fields, promises to be thoroughly successful in a financial point of view, the excess of receipts over working expenses during the first year having been equivalent to a reduction of 10,343*l.* in the charges to which the Colonial Treasury would have been liable, and that, too, in spite of fully 3,000*l.* spent on new works, or carried to depreciation fund.

This has naturally tended, in combination with other causes, to encourage the Government to proceed in earnest with railway works; and, though the difficulties to be overcome at starting, in procuring adequate supplies of labour, and the high price of iron in Great Britain prevented rapid progress last year on the two lines in course of construction, surveys were set on foot, in various directions, under the charge of engineers of experience sent out from home, and my advisers were thus enabled to submit to Parliament this Session a comprehensive scheme of railway construction, embracing altogether 800 additional miles, estimated to cost in the aggregate 4,800,000*l.*

This scheme, which but a few years ago would have been deemed extravagant and visionary, has received the unanimous sanction of all parties. It is evident, indeed, that there is no part of the world where railways are so essential as in this country, which possesses no navigable rivers or canals, and where in dry seasons the ordinary means of transport, by ox-waggon, at once break down; and it seems clear, on the other hand, that the present financial prosperity of the Cape Colony is such as fully to warrant the undertaking being entered on.

The outlay will be spread over at least five years; the amount at present receivable from land revenue (250,000*l.* per annum), though not specially appropriated to the service, being, however, adequate to meet the interest, at 4½ per cent. on the four millions sterling to be borrowed, even if the whole loan had been at once contracted.

Another important acquisition made by the Colony in 1873, consisted of the entire property of the Cape of Good Hope Telegraph Company, on account of which 41,123*l.* was paid, while a return of nearly 2,000*l.* was realized by the working.

Contracts for extending the telegraphic lines thus purchased to the Orange River were at once entered into; and before the close of the year, considerable progress had been made.

A contract was also entered into, under authority of an Act passed last Session, with Hooper's Company, for laying a Submarine Cable from Port Elizabeth, viâ Natal and Mauritius, to Aden, but owing to delays in connection with the last-named Colony no commencement could be made.

Other public works, such as roads, bridges, and the improvement of the harbours on the eastern coast, were pushed forward with spirit, though the difficulties attendant on obtaining steady labour and materials stood much in the way.

Population, Education, Crime.

The only Returns available under the first head are those of 1865, but an Act has, I am glad to say, been passed to authorize the taking

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

of a census on the expiration of the decade next year, which will, I trust, supply the authentic particulars so much wanted.

For the first time for many years a considerable sum (26,000*l.*) was applied to the introduction of immigrants, chiefly artisans and labourers for the Government railways, though regulations for promoting assisted immigration were likewise published. It is evident that if the Colony is to continue its present rate of progress, this policy must be persevered in.

The interesting Report of the Superintendent-General of Education shows that there were in operation, under his supervision, 540 schools and industrial institutions, which were attended by 49,660 children of all classes during some portion of the year. As compared with 1872, this was an increase of 26 schools, and 3,415 children at school. Of the children thus educated, 51 per cent. were boys, 49 per cent. girls.

During the year the direction of the native schools in Basutoland was placed in the hands of the Superintendent-General, the expense, however, being still met from the revenue of that territory. As there are 44 schools connected with the Paris Evangelical Mission alone, attended by 1,983 children, this is a step of no small importance. Dr. Dale had already undertaken the superintendence of an equal number of native schools, attended by 3,713 children, lying beyond the colonial boundary in the locations inhabited chiefly by Fingoes and Tambookies; and he states that the demand for elementary instruction, even among the Galekas under Kreli, and still remoter tribes, is urgent.

As he justly remarks, the policy of extending English education along with the civilizing influences of Christain training throughout these regions, whether regarded from a social or political standpoint, can be questioned by none.

With respect to higher education, the anomalous position of the various Colleges in the Colony, as regards grants from the Public Treasury, did not escape the attention of my advisers, whose efforts, however, were, in the first instance, directed to the passing of Act No. 16, of 1873, for the incorporation of a Colonial University, in connection with whose examinations these collegiate institutions may be extended and improved.

Crime was not on the increase during the year. The annual Report of the Convict Establishments shows the admission of 587 newly-sentenced men, as against 645 in 1872, while at the end of the year the number in confinement had fallen from 974 to 854.

As a comparison of the number in confinement in the District Prisons at the same date in the two years shows an increase from 887 to 955, too much stress should not be laid on the foregoing reduction.

Six men were sentenced to death for murder, though only one was executed.

They present no feature of novelty; but I am glad to say that some addition is being made to the accommodation at the Old Somerset Hospital, in Cape Town, the overcrowding of which has in former years given rise to remarks, while it has been at length decided to proceed with the works for extending the Lunatic Asylum on Robben Island, as well as those at the new asylum for the eastern districts at Graham's Town.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Shipping, Imports and Exports, &c.

The commercial statistics of the Colony in 1873 show somewhat less favourably than they did in the year preceding. Little or no rain fell during the latter six months of it in the eastern, as well as in many of the western districts, and this drought seriously affected farming operations, the sheep especially suffering greatly, thousands dying for want of pasturage and water, so that the production of wool considerably decreased.

The trade of Griqualand West was also much depressed, owing to the low price of diamonds prevalent in Europe; and this, of course, reacted on its mercantile transactions in this Colony.

The effect, as regards shipping, is not apparent; for though the number of vessels entered both inwards and outwards with cargo was a few less, the aggregate tonnage was considreably larger.

Neither did the drought tell upon the imports, for it will be seen on the contrary, from the summary of the Customs Returns, that their value (excluding specie) rose from 4,388,728*l.* to 5,130,068*l.*, or close upon three quarters of a million sterling. It is clear that this was not due to speculative operations, since the increase in the value of the goods entered for consumption in 1873 was even greater, amounting to 832,035*l.*

In the importation of specie there was a diminution to the large extent of 1,478,653*l.*, accompanied by a small increase in the amount exported.

This merely denotes, however, I imagine, that more than enough coin had previously been brought into the Colony for the purchase of diamonds, an operation now mainly effected by means of notes, and that the banks were under no obligation to augment their reserves in order to meet their circulation.

That circulation, indeed, was somewhat reduced towards the close of the year by the restricted accommodation afforded to their customers. It amounted, on the 31st December, 1873, to 1,034,080*l.*, as against 1,084,072*l.* at the same period of 1872. On the other hand, the value of exports is stated at 3,907,911*l.*, or 683,160*l.* less than in 1872, the decrease in wool alone equalling 547,348*l.* The Customs Returns, however, must be held not to include the value of diamonds, which figure for only 25,285*l.*, against 306,041*l.* in the previous year. Neither amount gives any real clue to the extent of the exportation, as they are sent chiefly by private hand or through the Post Office. In the Annual Report of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, it is stated that there are good reasons for believing that upwards of a million and a half worth of diamonds were forwarded by post. As this is the same amount calculated on by the Chamber in the preceding year, while there can be no doubt prices at home ruled lower, and finds were not so large, this must either be an over-estimate, or the previous one was too low. Little more, in fact, is known than that registered letters, weighing on an average 10 lb., are sent by each mail steamer, the relative proportion between the weight of the packages and that of their precious contents being kept carefully secret. I may add that it was recently asserted in the Griqualand West Legislative Council that the famous Colesberg

Kopje alone had yielded no less than two millions' worth of diamonds last year.

If even the lower amount be added to the value of other exports, the total will be found just about equal to the value of the imports, specie included.

The decrease in the export trade of the Colony was not therefore of any serious consequence.

Concluding Remarks.

The Parliamentary Session, the first under responsible Government, passed off quietly. No attempt was made to displace the Ministry installed by me in office on the Royal Assent being given to the Constitution Amendment Act; and a fair amount of legislative business was transacted far more smoothly and rapidly than under the old system.

Being defeated, however, towards the close of the Session by a small majority in the Legislative Council with regard to a Bill which they had introduced for altering the electoral divisions for that body, my advisers deemed it expedient that a dissolution of Parliament should take place, notwithstanding the Assembly had still another year to run, it not being competent to the Crown to dissolve the Upper, unless the Lower House be simultaneously dissolved.

The result of their appeal to the constituencies of both Houses has proved quite as favourable as they anticipated, and the new system may be said to be working satisfactorily in all respects.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Carnarvon, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY BARKLY, Governor.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

GRIQUALAND WEST.

No. 11.

No. 11.

Governor Sir H. BARKLY, K.C.B., to THE EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Cape Town, November 24, 1874.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Griqualand West for 1873, which only reached my hands on my return to Cape Town.

2. As it was the first year of the existence of that Province as a British Colony under a separate form of Government, it seems unnecessary for me to say much in support of the apology offered in his covering letter by the Secretary to that Government, for the lateness of its compilation and the imperfection of the returns.

3. Some of the most interesting Schedules indeed furnished from other Colonies, such as those regarding shipping, imports and exports, &c., &c., are of course inapplicable to a country remote from the seaboard, and the commercial statistics of which are necessarily

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

interwoven with those of the Cape and Natal, but a fair amount of useful information on several points will, nevertheless, be found.

4. According to estimates put forward on the spot, the diamonds raised during the period in question were worth no less than two millions and a half sterling, which might be taken to justify a claim to nearly an equivalent amount of the gross imports of the year into South Africa. But adopting the more moderate computation of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, which set down the value of the diamonds shipped hence at one million and a half, even this would denote a remarkable degree of prosperity.

5. The population is assumed in the Schedule to have been, roundly speaking, 15,000 whites and 20,000 blacks, and, deducting half a million sterling for the wages of the latter, the remaining million left higher average earnings to the miners than were made, I imagine, at any existing gold field in the world.

6. The continued decline in the price of diamonds in the markets of Europe, combined with the swamping of a large number of claims in "Colesberg Kopje," the principal mine, by unusually heavy rains, has caused much distress since the commencement of the present year, and led to a considerable exodus of the population to the Trans-Vaal Gold Fields and elsewhere; but, as the mine has lately been pumped free from water, so as to admit of a general resumption of work, I venture to hope that, when the time arrives for the transmission of the Blue Book for 1874, indications will not be wanting of some revival of former prosperity.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY BARKLY,
Governor.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 11.

Secretary to Government's Office, Kimberley,
November 7, 1874.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith for his Excellency's information, and for transmission to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Blue Book for 1873, relating to this Province, in triplicate, and in doing so to express my regret that its despatch should have been so long delayed, and that the returns which it embodies should be in many ways so imperfect. But his Excellency is aware of the present difficulty of procuring authentic information of the description required, in this Province, which I trust may prove sufficient excuse both for the delay and the incompleteness of some of the returns.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN B. CURREY,
Secretary to Government.

His Excellency the Governor
of Griqualand West, Cape Town.

CEYLON.

No. 12.

Acting Governor BIRCH to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

The Pavilion, Kandy, Ceylon,
August 11, 1874.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of Ceylon for the year 1873, and to submit the following Report on its contents:—

Revenue and Expenditure.

	£
2. The revenue for 1873 was - -	1,290,918
The expenditure for ditto - - -	1,176,259
Excess of revenue over expenditure	£114,659

As compared with 1872 the revenue of 1873 shows an increase of 116,220*l.*

1873	-	£1,290,918
1872	-	1,174,698
	£	116,220

The following are the principal items of increase:—

Customs: imports 16,681*l.*, due to the improvement of trade generally. There has been an increase on most of the articles imported, principally on cotton goods, grain, malt liquor, &c.

Land sales, 7,888*l.*, attributable to the sale of large tracts of waste land in the Central Province, suited for coffee cultivation, and to the high prices realized for building lots in the Western Province. The highest price realized for land suitable for coffee cultivation was 18*l.* the acre, and for building lands in the vicinity of Colombo 264*l.* the acre.

Land revenue: paddy, 6,266*l.* Owing to a productive harvest, the result of more seasonable weather in 1873 than in the previous year. Royalty on plumbago, 2,438*l.* The trade in this article has considerably increased of late; and owing to the attempts made to evade the payment of the royalty due on plumbago dug on private lands, the dues are now collected as a royalty on the shipment of the article.

Rents exclusive of lands: tolls on bridges and canals, &c., 5,028*l.*, indicating increased traffic, leading to greater competition for toll rents.

Stamps, general, 11,001*l.* Owing to the introduction of a new system in 1873, under which stamp and registration fees for title deeds are brought to account of revenue instead of being placed in deposit, the collections of 1873 include the revenue proper of that year, and portions of the revenue of previons years. Postage stamps, 2,369*l.*, showing that these stamps are more extensively used by the public.

Sale of Government property: salt, 7,929*l.*, owing to the sale of a larger quantity for export to released districts, the stock in the

CEYLON.

previous year having been so low that no salt was available for issue to Dhonies. Colonial stores, 2,969*l.*, accounted for by the fact that, on the transfer of the Colonial Store Department to the new quarters at Slave Island, the old and useless stock in store was disposed of.

Miscellaneous receipts: repayment for deficiency of troops, 3,670*l.* In consequence of the disbandment of the Ceylon Rifle Regiment in June, 1873, and the question of the military force remaining unsettled, the Colony continued to make the full payment of the military contribution at the rate of 160,000*l.* per annum, and the abatement to be paid by the military authorities on account of deficiency of troops was therefore larger for the year 1872–73 than the previous year.

Interest on Indian and local investments, 6,018*l.*, owing to the second half-year's interest on Indian stock for 1872 having been received in 1873.

Railway receipts, 52,586*l.*, accounted for by the partial opening of the extension to Nawalapitiya, as far as Gampola, in February, 1873, and by the larger coffee crop in that year.

The expenditure of 1873 was 1,176,259*l.*, that of 1872, 1,062,994*l.*, showing an increase of 113,265*l.*

The increase under the head of "Establishments" amounts to 15,790*l.* It is chiefly in the registration, the medical, police, and railway departments.

The increase on pensions, 9,150*l.*, is owing partly to the pensions of Kandyan pensioners, paid in 1872, having been brought to account in 1873, and to the provision made for the commutation of these pensions to the amount of 6,200*l.*, and also to the payment from the general revenue of the Pioneer pensions, which were formerly defrayed from the Pioneer Pension Fund. There is an increase of 2,529*l.* under the head of "Education," owing to the wider extension of the grant-in-aid scheme, and to the opening of new schools; and of 2,273*l.* under the head of "Hospitals," owing to a larger expenditure for provisions and other necessaries to patients, and to the increased number of hospitals. There is an increase of 10,281*l.* under the head of "Works and Buildings;" and a decrease of 4,585*l.* on roads, streets, and bridges. The increase of 2,160*l.* under the head of "Interest" includes a sum of 2,000*l.* paid as interest on the loan for the extension of the railway to Nawalapitiya. The increase of 30,936*l.* on "Colonial Store" is chiefly in the expenditure for stores purchased in England. "Railway Services" shows an increase of 9,467*l.* on account of additional expenditure for working expenses consequent on the opening of the line from Kandy to Gampola, and "Railway Construction" an increase of 28,875*l.*, which consists of an instalment of 30,000*l.* from the general revenue for the Nawalapitiya extension, and 3,875*l.* on account of premium paid to the contractors, Messrs. Reid and Mitchell, for opening the line as far as Gampola before the contract time.

Assets and Liabilities.

3. The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1873, amounted to 418,782*l.*, the liabilities to 302,913*l.*, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of 115,868*l.* Omitting from the statement of

assets the sum of 3,750*l.* on account of arrears of revenue outstanding, and 1,875*l.* on account of surcharges outstanding, and deducting also from the statement of liabilities the item of 24,975*l.* on account of drafts outstanding, the balance amounted to 135,219*l.* This is subject to a further deduction on account of the new copper coin received from India in 1871, 1872, and 1873, amounting to 20,617*l.*, reducing the balance available for appropriation on the 31st December, 1873, to 114,602*l.*

Imports and Exports.

4. The value of goods imported in 1873, exclusive of specie, was 4,649,567*l.*, showing an increase of 411,564*l.* as compared with that of 1872, which amounted to 4,323,717*l.* There was also an increase of 2,292,551*l.* on the exports, the value for the two years having been—1872, 3,085,543*l.*; 1873, 5,378,095*l.*

Adding to these the specie imported and exported, the total value of the imports and exports of 1873, as compared with the preceding year, stands thus:—

IMPORTS.

	£
1872	5,169,524
1873	5,574,358

EXPORTS.

	£
1872	3,139,060
1873	5,439,591

The total value of goods (exclusive of specie) imported and retained in the Colony during 1873 amounted to 4,257,974*l.*, viz.:—

	£
Imports exclusive of specie	4,649,567
Deduct imports exported	391,593
Goods retained	£4,257,974

The total value of specie imported and retained in the Island during 1873 amounted to 863,295*l.*, viz.:—

	£
Specie imported	924,791
Ditto exported	61,496
Specie retained	£863,295

The total value, therefore, of goods and specie imported and retained in the Island during 1873 amounted to 5,121,269*l.*, as follows:—

	£
Goods retained	4,257,974
Specie, ditto	863,295
Goods and specie retained	£5,121,269

CEYLON.

The total value of Ceylon produce exported in 1873 amounted to 4,986,502*l.*, viz.:—

	£
Exports exclusive of specie	5,378,095
Deduct imports exported	391,593
Ceylon produce	£4,986,502

5. The Collector of Customs explains that the great difference in the value of exports for 1873, as compared with 1872, arises from the average value of coffee during last year in this market previous to shipment being taken at 4*l.* 10*s.* for plantation and 4*l.* for native, instead of 2*l.* 14*s.* and 2*l.* as heretofore.

6. I append to this Despatch a return of exports of coffee, cinnamon, cocoanut oil, and coir for the last ten years; and a return of the total value of imports and exports (including specie and bullion) in the years 1871, 1872, and 1873.

Public Works.

7. The total expenditure on public works during the past year amounted to 317,842, viz.:—

	£
Government money	245,486
Road Ordinance labour and private contributions	37,114
Establishments	35,242
	£317,842

8. In the year 1872 the expenditure was 298,322*l.*, showing an increase of 19,520*l.* in 1873.

The expenditure is divided under the following heads:—

	Government Money.	Road Ordinance Funds and Private Contributions.	Total.
WORKS AND BUILDINGS.	£	£	£
New works and buildings	30,346	—	30,346
Alterations and additions to buildings	6,614	—	6,614
Repairs to buildings	13,475	—	13,475
ROADS, STREETS, BRIDGES, AND CANALS.			
New roads	5,195	5,543	10,738
Additions and improvements to roads	16,397	719	17,116
Upkeep of roads	105,494	29,509	135,003
New bridges	19,663	1,244	20,907
Repair of bridges	6,389	—	6,389
Inland navigation	6,344	—	6,344
IRRIGATION WORKS.			
New works	24,778	—	24,778
Upkeep works	1,730	—	1,730
DEPARTMENTAL CHARGES.			
Ferry boats	172	—	172
General service	1,423	—	1,423
Miscellaneous	7,466	99	7,565
	£245,486	37,114	282,600
Establishment	—	—	35,242
			£317,842

9. The funds from which the expenditure has been met are as follows:—

	£
Supply Bill	210,701
First Supplementary Bill	19,789
Second „	15
Unexpended balance of previous years	32,326
Road Ordinance funds	24,019
Private contribution	13,095
Loan Board funds	3,980
Surplus funds, 1871	2,147
„ 1873	11,770
	£317,842

10. The following are the chief items under the head of new works and buildings:—

	£
New gaols at Badulla, Batticaloa, Puttalam, Newara Eliya, Welikada, Point Pedro, Jaffna, and Negombo	7,499
New hospitals at Galle, Puttalam, and Mahaiyáwa, Kandy	4,595
Medical officers' quarters, Galle, and medical students' quarters, Colombo	1,125
Purchase of a house at Galle for a school	1,500
„ at Nuwera Eliya for use as Queen's House and for certain improvements	3,194
Purchase of a house at Urugale for the police magistrate	100
Opening second entrance to Galle Fort	1,067
Operations in connection with Galle Harbour	1,093
Export and import jetties at Galle	1,716
Grainshed, Kankesanturai	423
Hospital buildings, &c., in connection with coolie immigration	2,360
Public latrines, Colombo, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Matara, and Galle	1,056
Water supply, Tangalla	564
Coolie shed, Margastola	324

11. The following are some of the most important of the new roads which were in progress last year:—

	£
Dimbula Road extension	764
Dik Oya Road	4,605
Dimbula Road to Ketagal Oya	1,989
Dikoya and Maskeliya Road	1,498
Improvement, Dectota Road	746
„ Popuressa Road	1,198
„ Badulla and Batticaloa Road	2,844
„ Matalé and Habarana Road	2,692
„ Central Road, Jaffna	3,199

12. Of new bridges the following were the principal:—

	£
Malwetty, Oya, and Manel Aar, on the Central Road, Jaffna	2,576
Gal Oya, on the Trincomalee Road	2,839
Belgravia Bridge	2,406
Bridges on the Badulla and Batticaloa Road	6,994

13. The following is a summary of the expenditure on irrigation orks during the past year:—

Eastern Province.

	£
Restoration of Chadiyantalawa tank	3,122
Ambara extension	1,276
Rukam tank	309
Pulukanawa tank	1,309
Sagamatukulam	1,253
Periyakulum	236
Divilane tank	14
Mutur Channel	216
Channel Kantalai tank	192
Sluice at Kehelula	43

Southern Province.

Elawela tank and channels	5,178
Degoda tank	106
Udukeriwila tank	2,301
Tissa Maha Rama tank	1,045
Baluwila and Uduwa channels	594
Urapola annicut	244
Head sluice on channel from Kirima to Sapugoda	59
Pettre annicut	458
Wehelle tank	65
Channel from Halie Ela to Urupola	1,004
Erecting two aqueducts, Kongala Aar	20
Sluice at Beruwala Matara	10

North-Western Province.

Restoration of Magalawewa	1,376
Wenoruwewa	424
Rebuilding masonry works, Galkulam	31
Dedura Oya Channel	30

Central Province.

Horaboruwava	270
Kadawuwa	220
Butale Ela headworks	25
	£21,430

GOVERNMENT HOUSES AT COLUMBO, KANDY, AND NUWERA ELIYA.

14. The following are the Reports of the Director of Public Works on these buildings:—

Queen's House, Colombo.

The roofing over the drawing-room has just been covered with sheet iron. In all other respects, as regards essentials, the building is in fair order; but settlement of the long-pending matter of railing and gates along the boundary is still necessary.

Pavilion, Kandy.

The roof of the back verandah is very leaky, and requires reconstructing. Several slight repairs are also required to the offices. In other respects all the buildings are in good condition.

Cottage, Nuwera Eliya.

Out of the proceeds of the sale of the Queen's House at Galle, 3,500*l.*, a building, together with some furniture, has been purchased at Nuwera Eliya as a residence for the Governor, for the sum of 2,600*l.*, as reported in Mr. Gregory's Despatch of the 15th October, 1872. It required certain repairs, which are now in progress.

Survey Department.

15. The Surveyor-General reports that the amount realized by the sale of Crown lands in 1873 was higher than in any previour year, the high prices of coffee in the United Kingdom inducing speculation, which raised the value of land suitable for coffee cultivation in this Island. 3,012 lots, containing in extent 23,645 acres, were disposed of for 95,814*l.*, or at an average rate of 4*l.* 1*s.* per acre, exclusive of survey fees, which amounted to 5,028*l.* Certificates were given for 1,961 lots, containing 30,896 acres, the survey fees on which realized 2,244*l.* The fees received on account of Temple land surveys amounted to 599*l.*, and those for tracings to 344*l.*

16. The total number of lots alienated from the Crown was 4,973, comprising 54,542 acres, and the total sum realized by land sales and fees amounted to 102,778*l.* This sum exceeds by 26,211*l.* the highest limit ever before obtained, viz. in 1864, when the sum of 76,567*l.* was realized.

17. The following are the results of the sales in the different provinces:—

Provinces.	No. of Lots.	Extent.	Purchase Amount.	Average Rate per acre.	Fees.
		acres.	£	£ *s.* *d.*	£
Central - - -	630	12,164	64,064	5 6 11½	2,058
Western - - -	1,045	5,828	18,696	3 4 2	1,411
Eastern - - -	602	3,981	9,242	2 6 5¼	1,044
Southern - - -	523	1,029	2,714	2 12 9	322
Northern - - -	121	329	647	1 19 3¾	102
North-Western - -	91	314	451	1 8 10¼	91
	3,012	23,645	95,814	4 1 0	5,028

CEYLON.

18. The expenses of the Department amounted to 27,437*l.*, of which 6,764*l.* were expended on the survey of China lands, Mahara and Colombo Branch Railway lines, &c., Nawalapitiya Railway, meteorological observations, town and temple land surveys, surveys for irrigation purposes and other miscellaneous work, leaving 20,673*l.* as the expenditure on the ordinary work of the Department.

Railway.

19. The branch line between Peradeniya and Gampola, 7¾ miles in length, was opened for passenger traffic on the 15th January, and for goods traffic on the 1st February, 1873. The average number of miles of line open for traffic in 1873 was therefore 82 against 74½ in 1872.

20. The gross receipts for the year amounted to 238,450*l.*, viz. main line, 226,172*l.*; branch line, 12,278*l.*; and the working expenses to 88,985*l.*, viz. main line, 83,548*l.*; branch line, 5,437; showing a profit in the year of 149,465*l.* In 1872 the gross receipts were 186,749*l.*, which, compared with the main line receipts in 1873, leave a balance in favour of the latter year of 39,423*l.* The working expenses on the main line in 1873 exceeded the expenditure of 1872 (73,808) by 9,740*l.*

21. The number of passengers in 1873 was 644,374 against 358,651 in 1872. Of those booked in 1873, 259,753 travelled to and from Gampola.

22. The tonnage of goods carried was 171,193 against 138,429 in 1872.

23. The total amount expended on the construction of the Nawalapitiya branch line to 31st December, 1873, was 235,104*l.*, inclusive of 3,875*l.* premium paid to the contractors for completing the Peradeniya and Gampola section of 7¾ miles before the time allowed by the terms of the contract.

This amount was paid from the following sources:—

	£
From general revenue - - - - -	54,264
„ surplus funds - - - - -	129,000
By sale of debentures - - - - - -	40,195
Pioneer Pension Fund - - - - -	20,923
	£244,382

24. The only interruption to traffic, for about twelve hours, was on the 24th May, and was caused by a small wash-away near the 21st mile.

Legislation.

25. Twenty-three Ordinances were passed in the year 1873. Of these seven, which were enacted in the commencement of the year, belong to the Session of 1872, which was extended beyond that year. One, No. 8, was passed at an extraordinary Session held in June; and the remaining fifteen during the regular Session of the year.

Ordinance No. 1 of 1873, "relating to the care and custody of "persons of unsound mind and their estates," was introduced in con-

sequence of certain practical inconvenience felt in the working of the former enactments on the subject.

No. 2 amends the Paddy Cultivation Ordinance, 1867. The following extract from the Report of the Sub-committee of the Legislative Council on the Bill explains the principal points on which the enactment of 1867 has been amended by the subsequent Ordinance:—

1. It gives the proprietors the option of commuting the payment by ten annual instalments of the sum expended by the Government in the execution of any work for a payment in perpetuity for interest on the sum so expended and up-keep, the cost of which will be borne by the Government, such payment not to exceed a rupee an acre, or in the aggregate seven and a half per centum on the cost of the work. This option may be exercised as well in respect of works to be hereafter constructed, as of those already constructed or now in course of construction.

2. The payment either of the ten annual instalments or of the charge in perpetuity may be made in kind instead of in money.

3. Power is proposed to be given to the Government to construct irrigation works in districts in which, owing to the circumstances of the inhabitants, or to any other cause, the provisions of the Ordinance are not deemed applicable. For this purpose the Governor may proclaim any district to be an "irrigated district," and proceed to construct, with such sums as the Legislative Council may vote therefor, the necessary works for restoring and completing the irrigation system of such district, and in constructing and repairing the tanks, sluices, channels, and other works requisite for the storing and distribution of water. As soon as such works are completed, the district becomes liable to a charge not exceeding seven and a half per centum on the gross expenditure incurred by the Government; provided, however, that such charge does not exceed a rupee an acre. The Governor is further empowered to levy a lower rate than the general one of the district as regards any fields in respect of which it shall be made apparent to him that such general rate represents more than seven and a half per centum on that portion of the gross expenditure by which the fields in question are benefited.

4. All questions under the Ordinance of 1867 are to be decided by a majority of the proprietors present, either in person or by proxy, at meetings to be convened for that purpose. The Ordinance No. 2 of 1873 provides that the majority should represent at least one-third of the average benefited by the irrigation work of the district. If they do not represent one-third, then the votes of the proprietors representing two-thirds of the acreage to be benefited shall constitute the majority.

No. 3 makes provision for the contingent services of the year 1873.

No. 4, "To facilitate the recovery of the sums assessed under the "Branch Roads Ordinance, 1866," was introduced in consequence of the inconvenience to which planters were subjected by the default of one or two individuals who withheld the contributions due by them for the construction of a road, in consequence of which the progress of works of vital importance to the district has on many occasions been arrested.

CEYLON.

No. 5, "To facilitate the construction and regulate the working of "tramways in Ceylon," gives the promoters of a scheme for the construction of tramways in Colombo the legal powers to carry on the undertaking.

No. 6 prescribes the order in which the property of public defaulters may, in certain cases, be seized and sold. The omission of this provision in former Ordinances led to inconvenient results; and instances have occurred in which valuable property has been seized and sold for the payment of trifling sums due on account of tax payable to the Government.

No. 7, "For regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors," was called for by the large increase of liquor shops in the Island, the use of adulterated spirits, and the extension of drunkenness throughout the country. The Ordinance lays down regulations with a view to prevent, as far as possible, the evils arising from this state of things.

Ordinance No. 8, "to apply a portion of the surplus revenues of past years to works and services of acknowledged public utility," was passed at an extraordinary session which was held in June for the purpose, in order to enable the Government to commence at once the works for which votes are taken in it.

No. 9 abolishes the Pioneer Pension Fund, which was found to be in an unsatisfactory condition, authorizes the appropriation of the money to the extension of the railway to Nawalapetiya, and makes the Government liable for the payment of the pensions to the pioneers out of the general revenue. The amount of the fund at the time of the transfer was 20,923*l.*, the claims on the same averaging 2,256*l.*

No. 10, "To provide for the recovery of the cost of treating sick coolies in Government hospitals," was introduced in consequence of the difficulty experienced in the recovery of the cost of sick coolies treated in Government hospitals, which rendered it necessary to make estates liable for the expenditure incurred by the Government on this account.

No. 11 provides for the establishment and regulation of a public museum in Colombo, for the formation of which there has been a generally expressed desire on the part of all classes in the Island.

No. 12, "For the prevention of accidents by gunpowder," was rendered necessary in consequence of the insufficiency of the provisions of the former Ordinance.

Nos. 13, 15, and 18 are the usual money bills. No. 13 provides for expenditure incurred and brought to account in 1872 in excess of the votes allowed for the year; No. 15, for the supplementary contingent charges for the year 1873; and No. 18, for the contingent services of the year 1874.

No. 14, "relating to the annual pilgrimage to Kataragam," was passed with a view to check the evils arising from this pilgrimage, and to place certain restrictions on it, to prevent the spread of contagious disease. The pilgrimage for the year has just taken place, and the rules framed under the powers given in this Ordinance having been strictly enforced, I am glad to be able to report that everything passed off quietly, and no sickness occurred among the several bands of pilgrims who attended this annual festival.

No. 16, "To amend the law relating to notaries," was rendered

necessary in consequence of the insufficiency of the provisions of the former Ordinance in regard to the examination and appointment of persons to be notaries, and of the inadequacy of the powers given to the Governor and the Executive Council to remove from office notaries who were guilty of unprofessional or improper conduct, but who could not be criminally pursued in courts.

No. 17, "Relating to carriages let for hire, and to coaches," was brought forward as the former law was found to be insufficient to put an end to certain laxities and irregularities on the part of proprietors and drivers of carriages let for hire, and it was necessary to make further provision to subject them to restrictions which are required for the protection of the public and the safety of the persons using the carriages.

No. 19 was enacted to give effect to certain rules and orders for the admission of advocates to practise in the Supreme Court, which were prepared and submitted by the judges of that court.

No. 20, "relating to the magisterial work of Municipal Councils," was introduced on the application of the Municipal Council of Galle. It empowers the Governor to relieve any municipal conncil from its magisterial work on application; and provides for the reduction of the number of councillors forming the bench of magistrates from three to two.

No. 21, "to provide for the collection of the sums due to the Crown on plumbago," authorizes a duty of 50 per cent. per cwt. being levied as a royalty upon plumbago exported beyond seas, in substitution of the royalty formerly levied on plumbago dug on private lands; a measure which was called for in consequence of the attempts made to evade these payments which it was not in the power of the Government to check.

No. 22 makes certain amendments in "the licensing Ordinance, "1873," which it was necessary to bring forward to meet evasions of the provisions of the Ordinance attempted by parties interested in the liquor trade.

No. 23 makes certain amendments in "the Branch Roads Ordi-"nance, 1866," to meet the complaints of proprietors of certain estates of the hardship to which they were subjected by the mode adopted by the Provincial Road Committee of the Central Province of assessing estates for the repair of branch roads.

Public Health.

26. The Principal Civil Medical Officer reports that the health of the country during the year has been unusually good; and that the Island has been remarkably free of epidemic disease. Fever prevailed only to a small extent. There were only 25 cases of cholera, of which 15 were in the Southern Province. All were due to local causes, and were sporadic in character. Smallpox did not prevail in an epidemic form. The total number of cases was 506, the majority of which occurred in the Northern Province.

27. The number of admissions into the several Government hospitals was larger than that of any previous year, the number treated having been 12,553, showing an excess of 1,436 over that of the previous year. This may be ascribed to the increased hospital accommodation

provided, and to the fact that greater advantage is now taken by the native population of the public hospitals, and European treatment in sickness.

The rate of mortality was, however, less than that of 1872, being 10·18 against 12·01 in 1872. The chief causes of mortality in Ceylon hospitals are stated by the Principal Civil Medical Officer to be—1st, the large number of estate coolies sent there with fatal diseases; 2ndly, the vagrants brought in in their last stage of illness.

28. The total number of prisoners treated in the several gaol hospitals was 3,630, with a mortality of 69 or 1·90 per cent. against 2,930 in 1872, with a mortality of 5·05 per cent.

Education.

29. The number of schools supported by Government on the 31st December last was 241, and the number of pupils on the list was 11,598, the average daily attendance being 8,946. This shows an increase of 41 schools, as compared with the number in existence in the previous year, and there is a corresponding increase of 746 in the total number of pupils, with an increase of 349 in the average daily attendance.

30. The expenditure on account of education, as compared with 1872, shows an increase of 2,773*l.*, the total amount expended during 1873 being 29,531*l.*

31. The receipts in 1873, under the head of fees, &c., amounted to 2,297*l.*, being a decrease of 159*l.* as compared with the sum received in 1872. This decrease is owing to the transfer of one of the English boys' schools to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the closing of certain Anglo-vernacular schools.

32. The number of new schools registered for grants-in-aid during the year 1873 was 133, and the total number presented for a grant during the year was 528. The number of children actually examined under the system of payments by results was 10,497. The number of children receiving instruction in these schools was 32,594. These results show an increase over the year 1872 of 126 schools and 7,151 children. Taking Government and grant schools together, the total number of schools and school children participating in the vote for public instruction in 1872 was 602 schools and 36,295 children; whilst in 1873 the numbers were 769 schools and 44,192 scholars.

33. The returns from the different missionary bodies show an increase of 72 in the number of schools supported by them, and of 9,174 in the number of pupils. The following is an abstract of these schools:—

	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils.
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel -	190	9,423
Church Missionary Society - - - - -	123	5,237
Wesleyan ditto - - - - - -	145	7,243
Presbyterians - - - - - - -	1	108
Baptist Missionary Society - - - -	41	2,171
American ditto - - - - - - -	114	8,196
Roman Catholic ditto - - - - -	169	10,217
	783	42,595

34. The numbers in 1872 were 711 schools and 33,421 pupils.

35. The number of private schools in 1873 was 393, with an attendance of 11,935, showing an increase as compared with 1872 of 28 schools and 2,500 pupils.

36. Prefixed to the Blue Book Returns will be found a Table, giving a statistical view of the progress of the Colony for the years 1821 to 1873 inclusive, and an abstract of the principal statistical results for the years 1872 and 1873.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Carnarvon, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

Enclosure 1.

DECENNIAL RETURN of EXPORTS of COFFEE, CINNAMON, COCOANUT-OIL, and COIR, the PRODUCE of CEYLON.

Year.	Coffee.			Cinnamon.			Cocoanut-oil.			Coir.			Total Amount of Customs Revenue from the foregoing Exports.
	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	
	cwts.	Rs.	Rs.	lbs.	Rs.	Rs.	gallons.	Rs.	Rs.	cwts.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1864	671,164	17,447,930	335,590	776,675	388,330	7,750	2,249,402	2,249,480	56,490	36,313	273,860	4,540	404,370
1865	927,440	23,435,320	463,730	850,973	425,490	8,520	1,176,784	1,206,780	29,550	41,378	316,370	5,160	506,960
1866	897,624	22,868,800	448,820	890,484	445,240	8,900	1,042,853	1,044,000	26,190	46,687	330,350	5,940	489,850
1867	943,592	24,305,360	471,800	1,017,750	508,870	10,180	1,345,485	1,345,480	33,790	49,675	344,460	6,210	521,980
1868	1,007,338	25,639,990	503,670	2,056,509	1,028,250	20,570	1,423,853	1,423,850	35,760	60,804	466,070	8,610	568,610
1869	919,065	23,919,800	459,540	2,684,367	1,342,690	26,850	1,292,065	1,292,060	32,440	64,998	430,130	8,120	526,950
1870	1,054,029	27,530,040	Free	2,191,274	1,095,580	Free	1,688,199	1,688,190	Free	61,666	434,300	Free	Free
1871	945,851	24,324,270	Free	1,368,174	684,100	Free	2,577,700	2,577,700	Free	65,424	454,480	Free	Free
1872	714,168	17,537,138	Free	1,267,953	647,476	Free	3,462,245	3,462,245	Free	67,919	467,942	Free	Free
1873	951,342	42,202,522	Free	1,160,754	580,377	Free	1,415,961	1,418,183	Free	65,048	453,627	Free	Free
Total	9,031,613	249,211,170	2,683,150	14,264,913	7,146,403	82,770	17,674,547	17,707,968	214,220	567,912	3,971,589	38,580	3,018,720

Customs, Colombo, June 8, 1874.

(Signed) W. HALLILEY,
Acting Principal Collector.

Enclosure 2.

TOTAL VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS (including SPECIE and BULLION) from each Country in the Years 1871, 1872, and 1873.

Countries.	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
	1871.	1872.	1873.	1871.	1872.	1873.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	14,620,502·87	14,893,588·52	15,348,522·44	26,331,689·75	21,396,905· 4	40,561,376·61
British Colonies :—						
Aden	98·75	1731·25	1235·	—	4,649·93	15·
Australia	1,849,299·50	1,668,526·11	1,010,337· 1	472,991·37	292,568·14	656,703·66
British Possessions in India	27,798,203·46	31,759,668·57	35,563,255· 7	6,868,478·79	6,325,542·74	6,975,555·38
Cape of Good Hope	—	1,758· 1	11,429·46	—	—	20,775·94
Hong Kong	182,645·67	223,383·40	359,898·97	316,196·83	144,478·35	24,535·
Mauritius	24,151·50	1,823·31	13,999·60	63,805·25	56,657·59	75,050·74
Foreign Countries :—						
Bassora	250·	20·	—	—	—	—
Buenos Ayres	—	—	80·	—	—	—
Bourbon	1,410·	—	—	—	—	—
China	3,000·	455·	—	3,351·50	11,313·	77,947·
Dutch Possessions in India	—	—	—	22,470·67	9,110·46	32,415·
France	50·397·33	145,259·61	201,099·57	276,935·21	342,205·20	924,186·13
French Possessions in India	1,778,078·29	1,609,336·87	2,039,548·10	256,863·58	279,740·15	316,767·29
Genoa	—	—	—	8,965·	44,999·99	5,717·41
Hamburgh	—	—	—	449,664·96	7,058·43	—
Italy	—	—	—	—	30,137·33	638,908· 1
Jeddah	200·	—	—	—	—	18,000·
Laccadive Islands	—	5,156·45	—	—	—	—
Maldive Islands	396,835·13	404,269·82	406,658·97	104,133·42	127,762·84	158,190· 3
Malta	—	—	—	—	1,077·34	—
Odessa (Russia)	—	—	—	—	6,754·34	12,676·74
Port Said (Egypt)	—	—	—	21,057·13	38,192· 7	—
Portuguese Possessions in India	—	—	54·	—	—	—
Rio Janeiro	—	75·	—	—	—	—
Spanish Possessions	—	—	—	—	—	150·
St. Francisco	—	—	—	88,172·37	—	—
Suez	1,272,876·50	980,191·65	787,434·30	254,188·92	44,520·75	115·360·84
Trieste	—	—	—	170,386·83	747,029· 8	2,067,578·35
United States of America	1,575·54	—	30·	639,183·71	1,476,644·78	1,714,006·18
Zanzibar	—	—	3·21	—	3,252·50	—
Total Rs.	47,979,524·54	51,695,243·57	55,743,585·70	36,348,535·29	31,390,600· 5	54,395,915·31

Customs, Colombo, 12th May, 1874.

(Signed) W. HALLILEY,
Acting Principal Collector.

STATISTICAL VIEW of the PROGRESS of CEYLON, from the Year 1864 to 1873, Inclusive.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Military.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools.		Estimated No. of Acres under Cultivation.	Land Sales.		Revenue.	Expenditure.
							Schools.	No. of Scholars.		Extent.	Amount realized, including Fees.		
									acres.	acres.	£	£	£
1864		2,051,109	2,981	45,713	18,542	39,997	907	29,065	1,580,078	34,122	76,567	867,728	843,292†
1865		2,049,728	2,738	45,056	16,835	30,328	798	26,763	1,651,963	41,150	68,276	978,492	838,193‡
1866		2,088,027	2,235	48,223	18,921	39,125	968	25,147	1,397,008	45,546	72,021	962,873	917,669◊
1867		2,093,777	2,410	42,782	24,433	44,224	874	33,379	1,550,664	44,019	45,257	969,936	827,932‖
1868	24,702	2,081,395	2,467	55,058	14,346	56,138	716	26,807	1,532,710	24,492	38,514	925,266	974,950¶
1869		2,105,288	2,408	54,281	17,205	46,801	915	34,617	1,424,069	35,823	57,965	946,495	881,373**
1870		2,128,884	2,116	63,111	17,150	40,230	978	41,490	1,526,583	29,560	57,206	1,091,606	1,026,871††
1871		2,405,287	—	68,856	11,178	46,803	1,421	47,068	1,402,556	25,227	61,331	1,121,679	1,064,184‡‡
1872		{ Figs. of 1871 repeated. }	2,617	69,573	9,605	53,337	1,302	54,650	1,419,459	19,829	69,563	1,174,698	1,062,983◊◊
1873		2,323,760	456	68,605	22,458	46,732	1,424	66,424	1,253,702*	21,656	103,089	1,290,918	1,176,258***

Year.	Total Tonnage of Shipping entered and cleared.					Imports.			Exports.		
	From and to United Kingdom.	From and to other Countries.	Total.	British, belonging to		Foreign.	From the United Kingdom.	From other Countries.	Total.	To the United Kingdom.	To other Countries.	Total.
				United Kingdom.	The Colonies.							
	tons	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	£	£	£	£	£	£
1864	109,839	960,556	1,070,395	513,153	427,926	129,316	1,651,587	3,875,377	5,526,964	2,015,326	1,096,942	3,112,262
1865	122,842	1,027,998	1,150,840	605,575	419,041	126,224	904,225	4,117,924	5,022,179	2,420,056	1,145,101	3,565,157
1866	115,456	1,066,869	1,182,325	578,576	454,352	149,397	1,390,686	3,570,375	4,961,061	2,385,126	1,201,327	3,586,453
1867	126,754	1,070,011	1,196,765	579,090	476,606	141,069	1,350,312	3,154,027	4,504,339	2,556,188	974,036	3,530,224
1868	163,999	1,082,615	1,246,614	656,812	414,544	175,258	1,264,470	3,138,707	4,403,177	2,793,313	993,409	3,786,722
1869	112,971	1,100,855	1,213,826	697,987	369,204	146,635	1,175,758	3,459,265	4,635,023	2,652,781	978,284	3,631,065
1870	154,963	1,268,982	1,423,945	779,777	445,565	198,603	1,531,491	3,102,806	4,634,297	2,907,146	896,585	3,803,731
1871	268,182	1,370,215	1,638,397	775,465	671,800	191,132	1,462,050	3,335,902	4,797,952	2,633,169	1,001,684	3,634,853
1872	263,369	1,552,818	1,816,187	707,550	870,147	238,490	1,489,359	3,680,165	5,169,524	2,139,690	999,370	3,139,060
1873	280,140	1,714,254	1,994,394	1,157,848	556,395	280,151	1,534,852	4,039,506	5,574,538	4,056,138	1,383,453	5,439,591

NOTE.—The great difference in value of Exports for 1873 as compared with 1871 and 1872 arise from the average value of coffee during 1873 in the local market previous to shipment being taken at 4*l.* 10*s.* per cwt. for plantation and 4*l.* per cwt. for native, instead of 2*l.* 14*s.* and 2*l.* as heretofore.

The figures under the heads—Population, Births, Marriages, Deaths (prior to 1871 when a Census was taken), Schools, Cultivation, are only approximative.

* Exclusive of the estimated average of cultivated land in the district of Kégalla, Western Province.

† This is exclusive of an expenditure of £250,000, charged against the Surplus Revenue of former years.

‡ This is exclusive of an expenditure of 28,162*l.* charged on Balances.

◊ Do. 40,723*l.* do.

‖ This is exclusive of an expenditure of 96,313*l.*, charged against Surplus Funds and against Balances,

¶ Do. 79,021*l.* do. do.

** Do. 79,431*l.* do. do.

†† Do. 21,475*l.* do. do.

‡‡ Do. 61,139*l.* do. do.

◊◊ Do. 122,567*l.* do. do.

*** Do. 63,729*l.* do. do.

Governor the Right Hon. W. H. GREGORY, to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon,
October 16, 1874.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of the speech delivered by me on opening the Session of the Legislative Council on the 14th instant.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. H. GREGORY.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Address of His Excellency the Right Honourable W. H. Gregory, on opening the Session of the Legislative Council, Wednesday, 14th October, 1874.

GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

FOR the third time I am able to address you in terms of congratulation on the flourishing condition of the finances of this Colony.

The revenue of 1873 was the largest ever known, amounting to 12,909,180 rupees, and the expenditure was 11,762,585 rupees, leaving an excess of revenue over expenditure of 1,146,595 rupees, or a net surplus of 327,025 rupees after deducting 819,570 rupees, the unexpended balances on works in progress which were carried forward for expenditure in the current year.

By this excess the cash balance of the Colony on the 31st December, 1873, was increased to 1,021,847 rupees, and deducting 500,000 rupees as a reserve, there remain for disposal by Surplus Funds Ordinance 521,847 rupees.

The excess of actual over estimated revenue of 1873 amounts to 1,409,180 rupees, which is due principally to the following items of increase, viz.:

Customs, 307,000 rupees: this increase has been principally in cotton goods, grain, and malt liquor.

Land Sales, 374,000 rupees: this is attributable to large tracts of land being sold at high prices for coffee cultivation.

Stamps, 262,000 rupees: partly due to short estimation, and partly to the stamp and registration fees of former years being brought to credit at once as revenue.

Sale of Government Property, 138,000 rupees: the increase is in the sale of salt and also in Colonial stores.

Railway, 248,000 rupees: the Gampola Line was opened in February, 1873, and the increase is chiefly owing to the extension of this line.

The revenue returns for the first eight months of the current year are also favourable, showing a gross receipt of 8,805,966 rupees,

which is in excess of the same period in 1873 by 384,224 rupees. It is however right that I should mention that this excess must in a great measure be attributed to special receipts, viz., 101,200 rupees from the Pearl Fishery; and 270,000 rupees refund of Military contributions.

Still the revenue returns are highly satisfactory, and I beg to call your attention to their steady progress, year after year, as will be seen from the following figures:

	Rupees.
In 1871 - - -	11,216,790
1872 - - -	11,746,980
1873 - - -	12,909,180

I shall take this opportunity of mentioning to you some of the principal items which I propose to insert in the Supplementary Supply Bill:

	Rupees.
For the construction of a railway to Moraṭuwa [I shall allude to this work hereafter] - -	700,000
For completion of estimate for the construction of Kalutara Bridge - - - - -	150,000
For the bridging of the Mannár and Madawachchi road [to which I refer hereafter] -	50,000
For a bridge over the Maha-oya between Negombo and Chilaw - - - - -	30,000
For the construction of a new Gaol at Kandy -	70,000

When I closed the Session at the end of last year, the food prospects of the Colony had caused serious apprehension to the Government. The northern part of the Island had not escaped the excessive drought which had fallen so heavily on India. In order to prepare ourselves for the distress which then seemed but too probable, we took the step, after full deliberation, of purchasing secretly a certain amount of rice, with the determination of increasing our store, if necessary, and of preserving the lives of the Queen's subjects at any cost. I consider it was a wise resolve to have made this purchase secretly. Had it been known that the Government was in the market as an actual, and possibly, prospective purchaser, rice importation would have received a severe check. We could not have given any assurance to other importers as to the amount that we might have to purchase, and very serious results would have probably ensued.

Shortly after the closing of Council, I determined to visit the distressed districts, and after an inspection of Nuwarakaláwiya, and of a large portion of the Northern Province, I was convinced that though suffering might be expected, no actual famine was impending. The Government therefore reduced their intended purchase of rice from 30,000 to 20,000 bags.

A series of useful works was recommended by the Government Agents of the North-Central and Northern Provinces, in order to give immediate employment in the distressed districts. These works

were eagerly flocked to in the Northern Province, and I have recently been assured by Mr. Twynam, the Government Agent, that (to use his own words) "they were the saving of the people."

It is gratifying to reflect that an alarming crisis has thus been successfully tided over. It was an essential part of the Government scheme of relief to establish depots of rice, but it was fortunately unnecessary to do so. A portion of the rice was therefore consumed in the public departments, and the rest has been sold. I shall ask you to provide for the loss, between cost and selling price, in the Supplementary Supply Bill for this year, and also for the expenditure on relief works. These works, although intended mainly to alleviate distress, were also designed as permanent improvements in opening up a country intersected by few roads. The Government has, however, determined not to rest here, but to make an energetic and systematic effort to restore the condition of these two fine Provinces, the North-Central and Northern, in which the inhabitants, wanting means of storing water, are dying out from disease, the result of bad water, bad air, and insufficient food. We have commenced the restoration of certain large tanks in the North-Central Province, which, when completed, will be dealt with in the usual way. But we have advanced still further, and have offered most liberal terms to cultivators who will assist themselves. By the aid of the Village Communities Ordinance, rules have been laid down by the villagers by which they are to repair and clear the bunds of their tanks, and the Government in return furnishes them gratuitously with a sluice and the skilled labour for constructing it. The extremely interesting reports of the Government Agent of the North-Central Province and of the Irrigation Assistant will be laid before you, and you will see that the cultivators, now that they understand the Government scheme, and find they have nothing to pay by accepting it, have taken it up warmly, and, shaking off long-engrained habits of indolence, the result, in no small measure, of despair, are working cheerfully and well in the restoration of their village tanks. Although but a few months have elapsed since this scheme of restoration has been set on foot, the repair of 37 tanks under the village system has been commenced. In ten of them authority for the construction of sluices has been given, and in eight the work is going on. It is estimated that if the system be further developed, about 120 to 150 tanks might be gradually improved every year, while as many as 30 or 40 might annually be provided with sluices.

I am in hopes of being able shortly to extend the same advantages to the Northern Province, which sorely requires aid; but the sparseness of the population, and the absence of ancestral influences, so strong in the Kandyan Districts, render the introduction of the Village Council machinery impracticable. You will therefore be asked to consider a short addition to the Paddy Cultivation Ordinance, giving power to the Government Agent to carry out rules similar to those passed by the Village Councils in the North-Central Province; and I have no doubt that Mr. Twynam, with his usual energy and devotion to the interests of the people committed to his charge, will, under the powers proposed to be given to the Government Agent

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under the new Bill, set on foot the same class of improvements which are progressing so favourably on the other side of his border.

It is a gratification to me to inform you, that every step taken by this Government as regards the purchase of rice, the mode of purchasing it, and the disposal of it, together with the plan for the improvement of the Northern districts, has met with the warm approval of the Secretary of State, by whose sanction I shall lay before you all correspondence on the subject.

Irrigation.

The works going on in the North-Central Province have by no means diverted the Government from extending irrigation elsewhere, whenever a proper case has been made out.

In the Eastern Province work was commenced on the magnificent tank of Kanthalai in the month of April, and the repair of it is progressing. The land irrigated by this tank amounts to 22,000 acres, though in bad years the storage supply will probably only suffice for 12,000. Such is the waste of water at present, that scarcely 1,000 acres can be irrigated from the tank at the end of the dry season: while for some time after the rains the fields are inundated by the water pouring through the sluice. The population is sparse at present, but there is every reason to feel confident that the prospect of opening up fine land with a constant supply of water will attract cultivators, and that this tank will play the same part in the Trincomalee District that Erikámam and Ambárai have done in Batticaloa.

In the North-Central Province the repair of Bassawakuḷam is advancing. The works have however been much retarded by the long drought, which rendered earthwork almost impracticable. The repair of the tank of Mahawẹwa at Madawachchiya has been also commenced. This is a very important station on the North-Central road, at the junction of the cross roads from Mannár and Trincomalee. A village and a bazaar at such a point with a plentiful supply of rice and water will be of great value to the large body of Malabar coolies going to and coming from India; and it is proposed to form a chain of such villages along the main road by repairing the tanks at convenient distances. The survey of Ẹlagamuwa, another important tank on the same road, is now in progress, and the repair will be commenced next year. Another tank, that of Rẹlapanáwa, on the Puttaḷam-Anurádhapura road, is being surveyed, and we hope to restore it also next year.

The extension of irrigation in all directions is, as you perceive, being rapidly carried on in this Province.

In the Southern Province the irrigation works in the Gangaboda Pattu will soon be finished, including the tank of Ela Vẹla and anicut of Pettré, and though the completion of the only remaining anicut at Alawatugoda has hitherto been delayed, it has been owing to the necessity of taking water from the river for cultivation.

The works at Tissamaharáma are being pushed on, but the progress is but slow from the extreme difficulty of obtaining labour.

In pursuance of a resolution passed at the close of last Session, returns will be laid before you showing the total number of irrigation

works undertaken under the Ordinance of 1869, giving the original estimates and cost of each work, together with the return hitherto received by Government. This document is by no means satisfactory. The original estimates have in too many instances been largely exceeded, and sums have consequently been spent on works which, had the true cost been known before they were undertaken, might not have been sanctioned. I cannot, however, attach blame to any person connected with these works for these insufficient estimates. I blame the system. The works were undertaken in a haphazard manner, without proper plans, surveys, and specifications. The great object of the then Government was to get irrigation set on foot without delay. I trust, however, there will be no more serious irregularity in estimates, as I have issued strict orders that the most careful preliminary plans shall be undertaken before an estimate is presented to Government; I have also obtained the services for five years of five scientifically educated gentlemen, whose salaries are paid out of the Irrigation Estimate, and they have been employed in preparing plans and specifications for the new works contemplated.

The recovery of instalments and water-rate from the land actually receiving the benefit of irrigation has been unduly protracted, but the Government is determined there shall be no more trifling in the matter. The collection of instalments and water-rate will be strictly enforced. In no other part of the East have terms, approaching in liberality those which we offer to the cultivators, been granted, and no repudiation will be tolerated.

The unfortunate destruction of the bund of the Denagama tank in March will necessitate a further considerable expenditure on this work, provision for which will be made in the Supplementary Supply Bill.

Railway Extension.

I shall not be in a position during the present Session to lay before you any definite plan of railway extension, but I have hopes that no long period may elapse before I again summon you together, to enable me to make provision for an extension of the present line.

I desire to express to the Railway Commissioners the thanks of my Government for the valuable report they have prepared on the extension from Náwalapiṭiya to U'va.

In compliance with the opinion expressed by the Unofficial Members of the Commission, it is my intention that a trace shall be sought from Kandy to Badulla by a lower level, to serve the districts of Héwáheṭa, Maturaṭa, Walapané, and Uḍa Pusselláwa.

The survey of the Southern Line is now being proceeded with, and, from the extremely difficult nature of the ground over which it has to be carried, will occupy a considerable time. The first portion of it has, however, been far more rapidly accomplished than I had anticipated, Ratnapura having been already reached by a trace involving few engineering difficulties.

A survey also with the view of bringing Mátalé into connection with the main line, will have to be undertaken, and I intend to give instructions to the surveyors to prolong this trace and run it to a

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point on the main line between Polgahawela and Rambukkana: Should this new trace at a future period be adopted, it would become an alternative line to Kandy, or perhaps a substitution for the present one. A line, however, to Mátalé would rest on its own merits, and be merely in connection with the proposed trace, though not in any way mixed up with its financial prospects.

It is essential before arriving at conclusions as to extensions to consider well and examine thoroughly our future railway system, so far as the present condition of the Island enables us to do so, that we may not hereafter have to regret undue precipitancy and undue parsimony from not having instructed ourselves by means of proper surveys. Even if it be found that the finances of the Colony do not permit at present of any fresh undertaking, these surveys would not be money thrown away, but would prove most valuable guides and assistance in the future.

The resources of the Department of the Surveyor-General are, I need hardly inform you, totally inadequate to meet the work thus thrown upon it, and the result of the abstraction of so many skilled officers from it has seriously hampered the course of its ordinary business. I have therefore, while awaiting the report of the Committee (now sitting) as regards the permanent increase which may be required in the Survey Department, asked the Secretary of State to send me out five trained surveyors.

With their assistance I hope to complete a survey to Badulla through Héwáheṭa, and also a survey to Mátalé, within a short period. In the meanwhile the report of the Commission and the plans of the survey of the Northern Line have been sent to the Secretary of State, and I have requested that a thoroughly experienced engineer should be sent out to examine the ground, to check the work, to ascertain if the best line has been selected, and to furnish my Government with an estimate of the cost of construction. It would of course save time, to decide without any further consideration on undertaking either the full extension to U'va or the partial extension to Dimbula, and to accept at once what is called in the railway world "a sporting tender;" the terms being simply that the contractor shall engage to construct a railway from one point to another point touching at certain intermediate stations. The too frequent results of these "sporting tenders" have fortunately been unfelt in this Island, but it has often happened that contractors in such cases have executed and received payment for the "cream of "the work," and then on a difference arising have thrown up the rest to be executed by their employers at a great delay and heavy outlay. On the other hand, when wealthy and experienced contractors are secured, who intend and are able to carry out their engagement at all costs, they naturally put on a large margin to cover all unforeseen contingencies. If a work of such magnitude as a railway to U'va be determined on, no contract should be engaged in until after the examination of the line by an experienced engineer, who will pick out the best trace, determine the necessary works, and enable us to arrive at a close estimate of the cost.

I shall ask you to vote the amount required for these surveys and investigations.

I have heard complaints that the preliminary inquiries have been extended over an undue period of time; but I beg of you to remember that when the subject of railway extension to U'va was first mooted, in 1872, although warmly supported by some, it was looked upon by others either with indifference or as a visionary speculation, on which it was barely right to expend the public money in preliminary inquiry. Two routes—those which are known as the Northern and Southern—had each of them their advocates. A Commission was appointed to examine whether the financial results to be expected from each line would warrant further investigation. At the close of the year 1872, on submitting the results of their preliminary inquiry, a trace over both the Northern and Southern Lines was asked for by the Commissioners, and the Government at once acceded to the request. The survey of the Northern Line was first commenced in January, 1873. The difficulties the surveyors encountered, the formidable impediments which they met with at every step, and which at one time seemed insurmountable, prevented the completion of their report till May last. That report was at once forwarded to the Railway Commissioners, and they lost no time in sending in their report to the Government in June. The 30th June, 1874, on which day this report was received, was the first day on which the construction of a line from Náwalapiṭiya to U'va assumed the appearance of a feasible undertaking. The plans of the survey and the report of the Commissioners were immediately forwarded to the Home Government, and on my arrival I at once applied to the Secretary of State for an experienced railway engineer and a staff of surveyors. In this I only supplemented the action of the Administrator, who had made a similar application a month previously when remitting the surveys. The Government from the first has never ceased to advance, but they have cautiously secured every forward step, and have not allowed themselves—nor will they allow themselves—to be hurried into ill-digested plans and helter-skelter Ordinances; but, having once arrived at a decision upon the advice of competent authorities, they will lose no time in pressing to its completion whatever line (if any) they may resolve on.

No class of persons in this community has so deep an interest as the coffee planters, that the Government should not engage the future revenues of the Colony except in undertakings which stand the scrutiny of the closest investigation. Should a deficit arise hereafter (and it would be in times of depression of our staple produce, coffee, that such deficit would be likely to arise) they should bear in mind that it will have to be met by increased taxation, and that the bulk of that taxation would unquestionably fall upon their properties, for the maintenace and improvement of which these costly railway extensions will have been mainly, though not altogether, carried out.

Had the financial prospects of the Northern Line been unsatisfactory and not fulfilling the conditions which I have always laid down as essential, the delay which must occur from the survey of the Southern Line would have been immaterial, as it would have been pretty clear that neither line would be a profitable undertaking.

The report of the Commission has, however, convinced me that

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the undertaking may be looked on as feasible, provided the cost of construction can be kept down below 150,000 rupees per mile.

We have not yet arrived at the point when the subject of gauge can be considered.

Assuming the cost of constructing a line from Náwalapiṭiya to Rosita in Dimbula (25 miles), at 150,000 rupees per mile, the total cost would be 3,750,000 rupees. Applying to this rough calculation the figures of the Commissioners, the estimated profit is—

On land actually in cultivation, 164,308 rupees, or 4·4 per cent. on capital outlay.

Including cultivable lands, 287,224 rupees, or 7·6 per cent. on capital outlay.

The cost of constructing a line from Náwalapiṭiya to Haputalé (75 miles), at 150,000 rupees per mile, would be 11,250,000 rupees.

The estimated profit in working is—

On land in cultivation, 710,655 rupees, or 6·3 per cent. on capital outlay.

On cultivable land, 1,149,419 rupees, or 10·2 per cent. on capital outlay.

The mean of the Commissioners' estimate is $4\frac{1}{3}$ cwt. per acre, the acreage estimated to yield 5 cwt., being 45,000 acres, against 100,000 acres estimated to yield 4 cwt. Undoubtedly, to take $4\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., or even 4 cwt. per acre, would be a most unreliable estimate for the whole Island, including as it would the abandoned, the semi-abandoned, and short-producing land in the worked-out districts; but to take 4 cwt. for the districts of Dikoya, Dimbula, and Maskeliya, and 5 cwt. for U'va, can hardly be considered an over-sanguine estimate, unless indeed the leaf disease should continue and extend its ravages. It may no doubt be urged, that as fresh coffee comes in, the old dies out; but planters have derived experience from the past. Coffee cultivation is conducted on principles very different from those of former days; Dimbula, Dikoya, and Maskeliya are comparatively young, and with such facilities for the transport of manures as a railway will afford, their producing power ought to be, if not permanent, at all events stable for many years. The U'va districts are, on the other hand, comparatively old, and although now practically beyond the reach of manure, they are among the most productive in the Island. With railway communication and consequently cheapened transport for manures, the present producing power of this district would be maintained and possibly increased. The expediency—indeed the absolute necessity—of getting up manures from Colombo to the coffee districts has always weighed more upon my mind than the getting down the produce of these districts to Colombo.

I am encouraged to hope that the estimates of the Commission are not unduly sanguine, by bearing in mind the estimates on which the extension to Náwalapiṭiya rested.

The estimated cost of the line from Pérádeniya to Náwalapitiya was 2,505,281 rupees.

The estimated profit in working was 206,820 rupees, inclusive of traffic diverted to the main line, and saving in the upkeep of roads. The estimated profit was thus about 8·3 per cent. on the estimated capital outlay. The cost of constructing the line from Pérádeniya to Gampola is given by the Resident Engineer, in his report for the

year 1872, at 950,000 rupees. The profits from the 15th January to 31st December, 1873—fifty weeks—were 68,403 rupees, or about 7·2 on the capital. If this be the return over only a portion of the line, I see no reason why the full estimate should not be realized after the whole line has been opened, and when it is in working order.

Such and so favourable being the prospects of the Northern Line, and assuming that the investigation of the figures at home, and that an accurate examination of the trace by an experienced railway engineer, confirm the conclusions to which the report of the Commission leads us, it appears to me that it would be unwise to interpose any unnecessary delay in coming to a decision. This decision cannot be arrived at by ignoring the Southern route, but I trust the report of the surveyors will be in the hands of the Government before the engineer sent out from England has gone over the Northern Line. I shall then request the Commission to consider whether a railroad short of Passara can secure the Badulla and Madulsíma traffic, and what profit could be reckoned on by a line between that terminus, or between a terminus somewhere near Haldummulla and Colombo. The reports of the surveyors will be sufficient to give a general idea of the comparative difficulty of the two lines and the working expenses of each, and if it shall be evident that it is hopeless to expect a profitable return from the Southern, it should be at once abandoned, to avoid further delay. There will be ample time before the engineer has completed his examination of the Náwalapiṭiya extension to finish the survey from Kandy to Badulla by Héwáheṭa, and consider the financial prospects of a line running through that country.

I think it right here to mention that I take the figures of the Commission as I find them, but do not hold myself responsible for them.

From the reports which I have received from the Provincial Assistant of the Central Province as to the extreme difficulty and expense which will have to be encountered, within two or three years, when the young plantations come into full bearing, in keeping up the Dimbula and Dikoya roads, I am naturally most anxious to commence the extension to Rosita, which, undoubtedly, ought to be made. But the difficulty of coming to a decision on this portion of the proposed extension is apparent. Should the railroad proceed no farther than Dimbula, I should be loth to recommend a change of gauge; should it however be carried on into U'va, a change of gauge may be necessary. The main extension must therefore be fully investigated in the first instance, and should it not be deemed feasible, then the extension to Dimbula can at once be considered, and if the project be approved of by the Government, the gauge determined on.

Moraṭuwa Line.

I shall ask you to allow me to apply the sum of 700,000 rupees for the immediate construction of a railroad to Moraṭuwa. The calculations of the Surveyor-General, taken from the figures of enumerators stationed by him on the road, show such a vast profit over expenditure, that I am unwilling to commit the Government to them, but it is perfectly clear that the line will pay a very handsome interest upon expenditure. Having enough funds to carry out other works which I consider it necessary to undertake at once, I propose (in pursuance with the injunctions of the Secretary of State, Lord Granville, to vote

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surplus balances to large works of utility) to take a vote for the full amount in the Supplementary Supply Bill, and if I find that the Legislative Council is favourable to the undertaking, I shall at once apply to the Colonial Office for sanction, so that not a day may be unnecessarily lost in commencing this work.

I look on this railroad as a most valuable undertaking—valuable to Colombo from the increased traffic it will create—valuable alike to Europeans who live adjacent to the line, and to the natives who will be able to bring in their agricultural produce and fish of a morning, and to return at a very moderate fare. I trust that its success will warrant me next year in asking you to sanction its extension still farther, until it reaches the industrious and thriving town of Kalutara, where the new bridge will be ready for it.

The length of the proposed railway is 11½ miles, and the total estimate for its construction, which includes stations and rolling stock, is 616,641 rupees, to which add 70,000 rupees, estimated as price of land, and the total cost will be about 700,000 rupees, inasmuch as I contemplate a diversion into St. John's Market, where there will be a station, by which the natives will greatly benefit.

I have had an alternative line examined, running from a point near Mount Lavinia through the Cinnamon Gardens into the Railway Station, but it has been reported on as in every way objectionable. The traffic would be greatly reduced, and the expenditure be greatly increased. The number of level crossings to be guarded would be very great, and the value of land taken by that route would be out of all proportion to the value of the land to be taken on the present trace.

Inconvenience has been apprehended from trains running so near the road of Galle Face, but care shall be taken that the trains shall not run during the time of evening drive.

Náwalapitiya Extension.

It is needless for me to give you an account of the difficulties which have interposed in the way of opening this line. Continual rain and the treacherous nature of the soil have defeated every effort of the contractors. I trust that when the line is handed over to us you will not forget that the contract was taken at 15,000*l.* under own estimate, and that you will permit the Government to deal liberally with men who have spared neither exertions nor money to carry out their engagements in the face of obstacles which could never have been foreseen.

BREAKWATER.

Mr. Kyle, the Resident Engineer, was employed during the months of July, August, and September, 1873, in making preliminary arrangements by setting on foot the opening of branch lines to convey stone to the port, by la ing out the quarry at Mahara, by adapting Galle Buck to the requirements of the future works, and also in collecting data for the information of Sir John Coode. By means of these and other data obtained by the divers, Sir John Coode was enabled to mature his plans, and to order the immediate preparation of the necessary machinery. The works at Mahara Quarry have been

completed, as also the branch railroads; and when the quarry plant and waggons arrive the engineers will be able to deliver and tip into the sea daily 300 tons of rubble. The yard machinery is expected immediately, but I regret to inform you that I see no prospect for some time of the arrival of the waggons, as the pattern waggon submitted by the contractor has been condemned by the Inspector for the Crown Agents, and I am not in a position to say when others fulfilling the requisite conditions will be delivered. Delay will be the result of this untoward circumstance. In the meanwhile Mr. Kyle will proceed with the completion of the works on Galle Buck, and as he expects to open his communications with the root of the Breakwater within three weeks, the want of waggons is greatly to be deplored.

It is satisfactory to find that the arrangement for employing our convicts in this work has met with success, as it has been proved from task-work that when under proper discipline they are capable of performing a better day's work than a free labourer.

It is well that it should be generally understood that by the arrangements come to between this Government and Sir John Coode, only that part of the Breakwater which extends as far as the Isaure rock has been decided on. When that section approaches completion, the Government of the day will have the benefit of experience to guide them as to the direction and length of the extension.

The Government has considered it advisable that, in view of the great changes about to take place in our port, a plan should be prepared, showing the accommodation which can be provided, the mode in which it should be distributed, and the various lines of communication necessary for traffic. It is far better to proceed gradually with our port buildings on a prearranged and carefully considered plan, than to allow structures to be run up here and there on some "happy-go-lucky" mode of proceeding. Mr. Kyle has therefore been requested to draw up a plan for the future distribution of the ground connected with the port, and to accompany it with a model, which I shall take care shall be made generally accessible in order to afford opportunity for criticism.

An Act of Parliament has been passed to lend the Colony 250,000*l*., on very liberal terms, for the construction of the Breakwater, and I shall submit to you an Ordinance prepared by order of the Secretary of State for the repayment of this sum, as soon as another Ordinance enabling the Colony to raise the balance required is received from England.

ROADS.

I have been doing all in my power to push on useful extensions in the coffee districts on the grant-in-aid principle. I have invariably contended that with the view of expediting extensions, contracts for excavation and metalling ought to be entered into with the owners of adjacent plantations, the masonry part to be executed by the Pioneers. Difficulties have, however, been generally interposed in the way of the establishment of this principle, and the consequence has been great delay in completing these roads, owing to the inability of the Department of Works to keep pace with the multifarious undertakings committed to it for execution in every part of the Colony.

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Complaints, too, by no means without foundation, have been made by planters, that though they have paid their moiety of the cost of these grant-in-aid roads, they have had their contributions tied up, and without any return, for an unduly long period. In future, contracts for cutting will be offered to planters who have the means of carrying them out, and the works will thus be more rapidly completed, and employment be given to coolies in the slack season.

In order to avoid the subject of complaint to which I have referred, against keeping the planters' moiety locked up for an undue length of time before the commencement of a road, I shall only take in the Supply Bill a vote for one grant-in-aid extension from Brownlow in Maskeliya to Cruden Gap, which may be begun ere long, but no delay need occur in carrying out other sanctioned extensions, should you see no objection to a supplementary vote being taken for them.

As regards particular roads, I am glad to inform you that the difficulties for which the Government was not responsible, in the case of Lémastoṭa-Wellawáya road, have now been got over, and there is no impediment in the way of beginning it. Besides its utility to the adjoining coffee estates, it will derive great importance from being connected with Hambantoṭa by a new road, the trace of which has just been completed. I propose to construct this new road as soon as possible, and thereby effect a ready means of communication between the districts of Sabaragamuva and U'va and the salt stores of Hambantoṭa.

A new and useful road will have to be constructed in the Pasdun Kóralé, to enable plumbago diggers to transport the ore to market at reduced expense.

Another work of importance will be an alteration in the trace of the present road from Mádampé to Rakwána and its extension to the summit of the Bulutoṭa Pass. This work has frequently been asked for by the planters of that district, and had they been able to pay a moiety of the cost, it would, no doubt, have long since been constructed. I have satisfied myself by personal inspection of the coffee estates in the neighbourhood, that the planters are not able to contribute to this work, nor ought they be called on to do so. It is essentially an undertaking for the Government. It will be the main access to the Kukulu Kóralé, and will ultimately be extended to the Morowak Kóralé road, thereby opening direct communication between the south and centre of the Island. These remarks are in accordance —indeed almost identical—with the observations in my closing speech of 1873.

The bridging of the Northern road is nearly accomplished, and from the accounts which reach me the work has been admirably done. This great arterial road, recently almost impassable, will be ere long (as I promised you in 1872) one of the finest in the Island. The improvement of it will be steadily pushed on till its completion at Elephant Pass, where a stone causeway will be constructed by prison labour at a small expense. While the Pioneers are in the north, I propose to employ them in bridging the road from Madawachchiya to Mannár, and also in throwing a bridge over the river on the new road to connect Mullaittívu with the Northern road. The road between Madawachchiya and Mannár is of great importance to the Colony, and

licence system the receipts have hitherto been small, although the should be put in order to afford every accommodation to immigrants At present the coolies are at times delayed for several days by the flooding of the Cheddikulam Aru. It is highly desirable that no time should be lost in the completion of the improvement of this road while the Pioneers are on the spot and under the direction of Mr. Wellopulle, who has shown such marked ability in his constructions.

The last bridge required on the Trincomalee road is in course of construction. The Pioneer force engaged on the Gal-oya bridge having completed the work sooner than was anticipated, it was deemed advisable to allow the bridge at Alut-oya to be commenced at once in anticipation of the vote which you will be asked to sanction in the Supplementary Supply Bill.

A bridge over the Maha Oyo between Negombo and Chilaw is a work long contemplated. Owing to the canal communication between these towns, it has not been hitherto considered as a work of primary importance; still, as rendering the high road from Colombo to Chilaw unbroken and traversable at all seasons, it ought no longer to be delayed.

TELEGRAPH.

You will remember that last year a motion was carried in the Legislative Council, affirming the expediency of resuming our telegraphs, and I expressed my intention of endeavouring, when in England, to give effect to that vote. The advantages of resuming the telegraph were at first sight calculated to dispose the Government towards the policy of the honourable gentleman who made the motion; there was apparently a considerable profit; and it was supposed that this profit might be rendered available to increase the number of stations and reduce the cost of messages, and, that by amalgamating the Post Office and Telegraph Departments, larger salaries might be given to post-holders, who should also work the wires, and thereby enable the Government to introduce a more highly-educated class of officials into the amalgamated department.

Subsequently, however, representations of a very serious character adverse to the resumption of the telegraph reached me, and I have every reason to believe that the mercantile community having turned their attention to the subject, looked on the proposed change with disfavour and apprehension. They were of opinion that a considerable time must elapse ere we could get together a number of trained men; that though a competent head might be obtained from England, yet in case of sickness or leave of absence the department might fall into incompetent hands, and serious inconvenience be the result; above all they deprecated a break in the unity of management, and consequently a break in responsibility. It could not be denied, moreover, that the Indian Telegraphic Department had always at hand competent men to fill, at the shortest notice, any vacancy which might arise. The profits on which we reckoned would, if carefully analysed and its various sets-off estimated, prove much less than it at first appeared. Our telegraphs have been worked satisfactorily, and the Indian Government has met the wishes of this Government by readily

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undertaking those extensions which we have pressed upon them; and —what should never be lost sight of—our messages to all parts of the world pass through India, and we have by our present arrangement the benefit of one uniform system of management. I have come to the conclusion that the balance of advantage inclines strongly towards leaving existing arrangements unaltered, and, without meaning any discourtesy to the Legislative Council, I have so informed the Government of India and the Secretary of State. I should have deferred taking any step in the matter without having laid my views previously before you, in consequence of the vote of last Session, in which I had concurred; but it was necessary for me when in London to come to a decision, and to announce that decision to the Under Secretary of State for India, in a conference with him on the subject of the renewal of the cable between India and Ceylon.

I therefore notified to the Indian Government that I am not prepared to resume our telegraphs, and I have requested that a line of twelve miles be constructed from Polgahawela to Kurunégala, and that the tariff of messages throughout the Island be equalized to the one rate of a rupee. If Kurunégala obtains a wire, all the provincial capitals in the Island will ere long be brought into direct communication with the seat of Government. The line to Anurádhapura is now finished and opened. I may here remark that this is a far more important station than it appears to be. Its establishment will enable the Department to ascertain a fault, and to repair quickly any injury the wires may receive in the unsupervised and extensive tract of wild country through which they pass, and it will be of advantage to the locality in view of the public works which are being executed and are contemplated in its neighbourhood. In the course of the present year Badulla will have its line completed and in working order; and though the wire cannot be extended to Batticaloa for some months, I have every reason to believe that it will be also an established fact by the summer of 1875.

PEARL FISHERY.

An unusual addition to the revenue, amounting to about 70,000 rupees clear of all expenses, was derived from the Pearl Fishery this year. It is an interesting question whether the oysters were fished a year too soon or not. This can only be solved by another examination of the beds in March, and by a comparison of samples. A far larger deposit of pearl oysters is known to exist, and another and more profitable fishery may be expected in a few years.

No one who visited Aripo during the busy period of the Fishery could have failed to remark the admirable and successful arrangements made by Mr. Twynam, the Government Agent, and carried out by his assistant, Mr. Bailey. To these arrangements we mainly owe the complete immunity from sickness of the large multitude which assembled there.

I desire to ask you to allow me to look on this 70,000 rupees as an exceptional windfall, and to devote it to exceptional purposes for the benefit of all classes.

I wish to apply 10,000 rupees of it in aid of the erection of a Seaman's Home, which is now required, and will be far more useful

each year as the traffic of the port increases. You are aware that private contributions for the furtherance of this charitable undertaking have been already sought, and that the Ceylon public have generously responded to the call by a subscription which has reached no less a sum than 12,000 rupees; more, I understand, will be forthcoming if required. It appears to me appropriate to devote a portion of extraordinary revenue which has come to us from the sea in enabling "those who go down to the sea in ships and occupy their business in "deep waters" to escape from drunkenness and debauchery, and to have the refuge of a respectable home.

I next ask you to allow me to employ 15,000 rupees in the erection of fountains in different towns which have not the benefit of municipal institutions. I believe they may be established at a moderate cost in many places, and if so will prove to be an inestimable blessing.

I shall ask you to allow me 20,000 rupees for the deepening and improving of Colombo Lake. The success which attended the partial embankment of this lake, recently executed, warrants me in proceeding further. The works which I propose to execute are—embankment in certain places where the water touches Government land; dredging and increasing the depth in places which have become shallow by the deposit of mud and silt; reclamation of certain swamps by means of the dredged material; and restoration to the lake of encroachments, which will be carefully inquired into. These very desirable improvements can, as I am informed, be carried out for about 60,000 rupees, but I only propose to lay out next year the amount above stated in order that we may judge of the result before incurring further expense.

I ask you to grant me 15,000 rupees for the improvement of Nuwara Eliya. This money will be entirely laid out on public improvements, for which the District Road Committee has not funds. I have no doubt you will concur with me in the expediency of rendering Nuwara Eliya attractive to all comers. Everything should be done to encourage visitors. Already I have established a manufacture of bricks to promote building, and the applications which have been received for them convince me that there will be shortly an increase in the number of houses. I am sure this vote will be ere long amply repaid directly by the sale of Crown land in the neighbourhood, and indirectly by the expenditure of those who, instead of returning to England, will find inducements to remain here and recruit themselves in our mountain sanitarium.

Lastly, I ask for 10,000 rupees to complete unfinished improvements in Kandy, which the Government cannot ask the Municipality to carry out. They are, in fact, the restoration of works in which the Kandyan monarchs showed their refinement and good taste, but which the barbarous vulgarity of certain British rulers degraded and destroyed. Had the structures to which I refer been handed over to the Municipality of Kandy in good order, they would have been bound to preserve them; but as the Municipality had to take them in a mutilated condition, it is but fair to put them to rights. This vote will complete the improvements which have been going on in Kandy for the last three years, and will make the ancient capital a

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credit to the Island. This will be the last vote of the kind which I shall require. Of course the removing of the silt from the lake will not be included in it.

I have placed all these votes under the one head, as although they are highly desirable they cannot be considered as directly and immediately remunerative.

FOREST PRESERVATION.

At the opening of the Session of 1872, I laid before you the views of the Government on the necessity of taking measures to preserve our forests from future depredations. I commented in that portion of my address on the reckless and ruinous system which had hitherto prevailed, but, as bad as were the reports which had reached me from the Government Agents, they were as nothing compared with the wholesale havoc and destruction of the greater portion of our most valuable timber, which the reports of the three Foresters reveal. I am afraid from what I have heard, that quite as wide-spread spoliation and as wholesale robbery have prevailed in the North-Western Province. It is an unpleasant statement to make, but the truth must be told, that Ceylon is almost denuded of its most valuable timber in all accessible places, and that but little is left elsewhere. When it was decided two years since that the preservation and restoration of our forests should be taken in hand, it was determined not to lay down at first any fixed and general rule as to the mode of dealing with our timber. Differences of opinion existed whether the Government or the purchaser should fell and remove. Both plans were adopted tentatively, and it is now the unanimous view of the Government Agents and of the Foresters that no more licences to fell in the reserved forests should be given.

The Government coincide in this opinion, and no felling licences will be issued for the future in reserved forests. The Forester will supervise the cutting of the timber he is likely to dispose of, and will have it removed to depots where it will be sold in open market at upset prices.

No replanting of the reserved forests will be attempted; it would be impossible to undertake such a gigantic work, except at an enormous expense, and with every probability of failure. Nature must be left to repair the ravages of man, and it will be the duty of the Forester each year to go over a certain fresh tract of reserved forest, and clear all valuable saplings within it from the pressure of the adjacent jungle. Once above the low thick scrub they will be able to take care of themselves, and in half a century the Island will come into the inheritance of large tracts stocked with valuable timber. I also propose to establish gardens of teak in connection with certain irrigation tanks to which a guardian is attached. This tree, as you are aware, flourishes in Ceylon, and its extended propagation will be a boon to future generations, without imposing any appreciable cost upon the present. I have no reason to suppose the timber revenue will fall off in consequence of the new rules. Fewer trees will undoubtedly be felled, but the Government will receive payment for them. Owing to the wholesale robbery which accompanied the licence system the receipts have hitherto been small, although the

amount of timber cut has been prodigious. If for some years to come, our revenue under the head of timber does not present a flourishing appearance, it must be borne in mind that our forests are almost denuded of the more valuable trees from which the past income was derived.

The Reports of the Foresters, which are interesting, and the new rules for their guidance, will be laid before you. These rules will be received with much distaste by roguish contractors, who have hitherto ravaged our forests with impunity, but will ultimately be an advantage to the honest trader, who will know where at once he may procure the timber he requires.

COFFEE, CINCHONA, &c.

It is gratifying to see how much confidence is felt in the permanency of a successful and profitable coffee cultivation in the Island, as is sufficiently shown in the competition for land suitable for planting. It cannot be denied that the leaf disease, which still prevails in different districts, does cause a corresponding diminution of crop, and that were it not for the presence of this disease our prospects, with the high prices now obtained for coffee, would be still more encouraging. I am glad to learn that recent microscopical investigation seems to indicate that the disease is mainly external, and that the coffee-tree suffers rather from exhaustion than from the poisoning of its juices. As it is of the utmost importance that we should obtain all possible information respecting this disease, the Colonial Office has been moved to transmit, through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to Her Majesty's Consuls and other officers residing in countries where the coffee-tree is extensively cultivated, a series of questions which I have caused to be drawn up by Mr. Thwaites, having reference to this subject.

To every one interested in the continued welfare of the Island it will be satisfactory to learn that cultivators, both European and native, are directing their attention to the raising of other valuable crops in addition to those of coffee. Large areas of land are already stocked with cinchona, and no fewer than 690,000 plants have been distributed from the Hakgalla Garden since the 1st of January, and orders for a larger number have been sent in.

Tea has already been tried to some extent, and its undoubted excellence has encouraged applications for a large amount of forest land to be employed in its cultivation.

Cinnamon planting is extending to the warmer parts of the Central Province, where it is found to thrive well on land unsuitable for other valuable products. There is a growing disposition also to plant cocoa, cardamoms, black pepper, and vanilla, as likely to become profitable enterprises.

It is a misfortune that the poverty of the soil of the Model Farm forbids the cultivation of these and other valuable plants to which our climate is so well adapted. Were it otherwise, instruction would be afforded to native cultivators in the mode of rearing and tending these trees, and in preparing the produce for the market. This knowledge, becoming gradually diffused throughout other districts, would have added to the wealth of the natives and to the general produc-

tiveness and well-doing of the Island. The Government would gladly have assisted an institution which was doing good work in teaching improved agriculture and the cultivation of valuable produce.

MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

I am unable to give you any information on the subject, as the matter is still pending between the Colonial and War Offices.

CLERICAL BRANCH.

It gives me much pleasure to be able to announce to you that at length a plan for the improvement of the Clerical Branch of the Service has been completed. It has been a matter of regret to me that so long a period should have elapsed between the time when the Government first announced its intentions of reorganizing this portion of the public service and the completion of this measure, which is altered from that which I announced to you in 1872.

In the measure proposed last year by Mr. Douglas, the interpreters and native writers were excluded from the benefit of the scheme, not by any oversight, but simply from the fact that the amount sanctioned by the Secretary of State would not have admitted of their being included. This has now been remedied, although at a considerable increase of expenditure, and I have reason to hope that it will not be objected to by the Secretary of State. I believe the present measure will give encouragement to good workers, and hold out prospects of promotion to those who establish a claim to it by their merits.

A lump sum for this new charge of 60,000 rupees will be required. I have considered it advisable not to alter the Fixed Establishment Ordinance until experience has been gained of the working of the proposed scheme, details of which will be laid before you.

LEGISLATION.

The Bills about to be submitted to you will not demand any large amount of your time.

Coffee Stealing.

The Bill which excites most interest in the Island is that which attempts to check coffee stealing. In my Address to you on opening the Session last year, I mentioned my intention of bringing forward an Ordinance for the repression of this crime, but I added that I could not consent to the introduction of any measure calculated prejudicially to affect a native industry of such importance as the growing and transport of coffee. The main feature in the Bill of last year was the provision by means of licences to check the operations of that numerous class who purchase stolen coffee on the precincts of the plantations, and who are the instigators of the crime. The Sub-Committee appointed to report on the Bill disapproved of these provisions, as calculated to unduly impede the innocent purchaser, and the Government then determined to abandon licences and not to adopt the Mart Scheme submitted to the Sub-Committee, but to endeavour to supplement and improve existing remedies rather than

have recourse to new ones. I informed you last year that the Mart Scheme could not be accepted, and I am sustained in the opinion then adopted by the Government, having, when in England, submitted the proposal without any adverse observation—indeed without note or comment—to the consideration of the Law Adviser of the Colonial Office. The chief provisions of the present Bill are the following. It forbids loading coffee by night, a restriction pressed on me by the general opinion of coffee planters; whether it may not occasion serious inconvenience to them, remains to be proved. It inflicts punishments on persons found loitering and lurking in coffee estates without good cause; it prohibits the purchase, under severe penalties, of coffee from labourers; it renders it obligatory for purchasers of coffee to keep written records of their transactions; it gives increased power of punishment to magistrates after second conviction, and dispenses with the proof of guilty knowledge in the case of persons previously convicted. The possession of green coffee, without good cause shown, is to be an offence, and powers of search for stolen coffee are given to police officers and headmen without sworn information. This provision, apparently very stringent, is in accordance with an earlier enactment.

I am not in the least prepared to assure you that these provisions, however rigid, will suppress coffee stealing. So long as thousands of acres of most valuable produce are open to all marauders, so long will there be marauders. It is not the province of the Government to supply coffee planters with warders any more than it is the province of the Government at home to watch over the strawberries and currants of the Chelsea market gardeners. We shall do all that lies in our power by means of detectives to get at notorious offenders, the instigators of the thefts and receivers of the plunder; but if planters aim at complete immunity from pilfering, they must organize a proper watch and ward for themselves, and at their own expense.

Administration of Justice.

The laws relating to the administration of justice were consolidated and amended by Ordinance in 1868. Under that Ordinance, as under our former laws, the punishment usually inflicted for the offence was made the test of the jurisdiction of our criminal courts. Vague as such a test may appear in the abstract, it was one so well understood that no practical inconvenience resulted from its working. The increased efficiency of our prison establishments, and the discipline enforced in them, which must necessarily influence the punishment awarded by our Courts, render a change in this respect undesirable at present. Latterly, however, questions of jurisdiction have frequently arisen, one effect of which has been to delay the trial and punishment of offenders. Sir Edward Creasy, during the last Session, submitted the draught of a Bill to remedy this evil. It was sent in at so late a period that the universal desire to close the Session prevented its introduction. It will be brought forward this year with some slight modifications. The Bill specifies the offences which cannot be tried by the District Court, and in respect of others gives the choice of Court to the Public Prosecutor, and makes such choice final as far as the District Court goes. Whilst there can be no ques-

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tion as to what are undoubtedly serious offences on the one hand, and undoubtedly light offences on the other, questions may be raised in respect of cases bordering on the two classes, and on these judges may differ in opinion. It is expedient that the choice, left as at present to the Queen's Advocate, in whom is vested the larger power of putting a prisoner on his trial or of discharging him, should be final.

To these provisions is added a clause allowing appeals from the decisions of Police Courts in matters of fact as well as of law. When Police Courts were first established their powers were very limited, but from time to time they have been extended. The effect of the Coffee Stealing Bill, if passed as proposed, will be to enlarge their powers still further. Under these circumstances it is neither just nor expedient to leave this Court alone exempt from the necessary and effectual supervision of the Supreme Court.

Branch Roads Ordinance.

Another Bill will be laid before you, consolidating and amending the Branch Roads Ordinance. The chief alterations are: first, the establishment of Local Committees for the determining of the estates interested in the branch road to be constructed, and of their assessment; the second, that proprietors using a road shall be assessed for the construction and upkeep of such road in any case where they had claimed and obtained exemption upon the ground that the road in question was not their proper outlet. I believe that these additions will generally be found acceptable to the planting community.

Law of Succession.

I have thought it best not to reintroduce this Bill, as I consider it expedient that a measure of such magnitude and importance should be carried through Council by the law officer of the Crown by whom it is draughted.

EDUCATION.

The work on education is proceeding satisfactorily.

On the 31st of December last there were 241 Government schools in operation and 11,598 scholars attending these schools. There are now 253 new schools giving instruction to 11,985 scholars. It is proposed to establish 16 more vernacular schools this year. The number of children therefore attending the Government schools at the end of the year will in all probability be about 12,400, as the 16 above-mentioned schools should represent an attendance of at least 480 children, giving 30 children to each school.

Aided Schools.

There were 528 aided schools in operation on the 31st December last, with 32,594 scholars in attendance; there are now 586 such schools in operation with 34,494 scholars. There are at present under consideration 96 applications for grants-in-aid to new schools. Nearly all of these applications come from the various missionary bodies in the Island.

I need hardly assure you that I received this announcement of the

vigour with which the missionaries are progressing with unfeigned satisfaction. I have visited the schools of different denominations, and have generally found them conducted with efficiency and judgment. By judgment, I mean that the object of the missionaries is to give a sound education so as to influence the reasoning powers of their pupils, and thence to direct them to higher truths, rather than to aim at filling their books with lists of nominal conversions. I know of no country where missionary enterprise is doing better work than here, or where there is less apparent "Odium theologicum." All are working with conscientious rivalry, and by the thoroughly impartial action of the Government each denomination is made aware that, so far as Government assistance is concerned, it is to be obtained solely by results.

Government and Aided Schools.

The total number of schools under and connected with the department, up to date, is therefore 839, affording instruction to 46,479 scholars.

The increase in number of Government schools since December last, 12.

The increase in number of Aided schools since December last, 58.

The sums voted for new village vernacular schools has been devoted to opening schools in remote districts in the North-Western, Central, North-Central, and Southern Provinces.

Applications for girls' vernacular schools, wherever situated, have received encouragement, when the people of the village, by putting up a school-bungalow, have shown that they were in earnest about it and prepared to meet the Government half way.

HEALTH.

The health of the Island has, on the whole, been satisfactory, though a severe visitation of fever lasted for some time in the district of Negombo, and dysentery has been prevalent in certain localities in the Southern Province. The reports of the medical officer at Negombo are now reassuring, stating that at the end of last month the health of that district was so much improved that the aid rendered by Government in medical attendance, medicines, and medical comforts might be discontinued. The health of the prisoners in gaols has been good, and the structural and disciplinary improvements of Welikada have had a notable effect on the condition of its inmates. Scorbutic dysentery, so fatal in 1872–73, has altogether disappeared, and though dysentery has been the most frequent cause of sickness, it has been of a milder type and more amenable to treatment. Although the sanitary condition of this prison is better than it has been for years, and may be pronounced as excellent at the present moment, still I cannot, with the experience of the past, recommend that any large increase in the number of its inmates should be allowed.

The necessity of carrying out a regular system of penal discipline renders additional cellular space necessary for convicts in the first stage. After all that has occurred I am not willing to erect more buildings in Welikada, and I propose to take the vote to which I have before alluded, for the construction of a new gaol at Kandy.

CEYLON.

The Government has already asked the sanction of the Secretary of State to this proposal. The old gaol is altogether devoid of the necessary space which will be required for the retention of nearly 400 convicts. It is not possible to continue the present system of dividing the prisoners at Kandy, some being placed in the gaol and some in the former Rifle lines. No discipline can be maintained under such circumstances, and in spite of all our efforts to relieve them, the prisons of Kandy and Kurunégala are still overcrowded.

I trust I may not have again to appeal to your liberality to any extent in aid of distress throughout any large portion of the Island, but I cannot conceal from you that unsatisfactory accounts from the neighbourhood of Chilaw and the maritime districts of Mannár have reached me. Continual drought has prevailed in these places—in fact, the rainfall hitherto has been most capricious. It has been copious in some parts of the Northern Provinces, and having reached a certain point, it has ceased to advance, leaving a gap untouched. Thus, while rain has visited Anurádhapura, and extended to some distance southward, a large portion of Mátalé has been exposed to drought, although immediately beyond it wet weather has prevailed for months. The Government will endeavour to meet any real emergency, by the employment of the sufferers in works for the improvement of the district.

Let us trust that by the providence of God, pestilence and famine may be averted from our borders, and that those blessings which have hitherto been so bountifully bestowed may be continued to us.

HONG KONG.

HONG KONG.

No. 13.

No. 13.

Governor Sir ARTHUR KENNEDY, C.B., K.C.M.G., to
The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Hong Kong,
September 10, 1874.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a duplicate of the Blue Book of Hong Kong for the year 1873.

The concise, and at the same time explanatory, Tables and Reports afford little room for comment.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The comparative yearly statements show that the revenue is in a satisfactory condition and quite sufficient to cover all ordinary expenditure.

The expenditure has been conducted with strict economy.

Legislation.

Eighteen Ordinances have been passed during the year, some of them of great importance to the character and well-being of the

Colony, more especially those relating to Chinese Emigration; and the Ordinance (No. 13), "to consolidate and amend the laws relating "to the process and practice, and mode of pleading in the Supreme "Court of the Colony, and to provide a uniform code of procedure at "common law and in equity;" Nos. 17 and 18, "to establish light-"houses, buoys, and beacons within the Colony," and "to provide for "the oral examination of prisoners," are also in the direction of necessary and useful legislation.

Education.

The Report of Mr. Frederick Stewart, the Inspector of Government Schools, which accompanies the Blue Book Tables, continues to be satisfactory, though, as usual, much remains to be done. The advantages accruing from the Colonial Schools and the principles on which they are conducted cannot be over-estimated.

Shipping.

The Harbour Master's Report will be found most interesting and indicative of the prosperity of the Colony, even during this trying year.

Gaol and Prisoners.

I have to submit a Report drawn up by Mr. Hayllar, Q.C., Acting Attorney-General, with a Table giving an abstract of cases brought under cognizance at the Police Magistrate's Court, during a period of ten years from January 1st, 1864, to December 31st, 1873, inclusive, which your Lordship will doubtless peruse with interest.

Mr. Hayllar states that the year 1873 was distinguished by a marked diminution of serious offences.

The total annual cost of the prison during the year 1873 was 6,025*l.* as against 8,715*l.* in 1872, accompanied by greater efficiency, and the undoubted result of deterring a numerous class of habitual criminals, who were wont to make the gaol a refuge at certain seasons of the year.

Hospitals.

The accompanying Report of the Colonial Surgeon conveys all the information I am able to afford.

The site of a new hospital is in course of preparation, to commence building as soon as the plans are received from England.

The general health of the Colony has been satisfactory.

Works and Buildings.

A glance at the Return of Public Works, &c., at page 36, will show a laudable activity on the part of the Survey Department, of which Mr. Price took charge during the year. The amount of important work done (and well done) by his often short-handed establishment is most creditable.

The repair and reconstruction of drains, of originally faulty construction, will involve a large outlay. The supply of water has been greatly improved, and larger works are still under consideration of the Legislature.

Police.

The testimony of the Acting Attorney-General as to the increased and increasing efficiency of the colonial police force is very satisfactory. Mr. Hayllar's position as public prosecutor and chairman of a lengthened inquiry into the condition of the police force in 1871–2, adds great weight to his opinion, which I can conscientiously confirm.

New guard-houses have been established, and a permanent station formed at Kowloong, which has brought a lawless population into a state of peace and order formerly unknown.

A reference to the Report of the Captain Superintendent will show that the large number of 158 men of all nationalities have been struck off the roll of the force during the year. It was unhappily necessary to make these examples, but it has resulted in the increased respectability and efficiency of the force.

Post Office.

The Report of the Postmaster-General will be read with interest and satisfaction, supplemented by an additional Annual Report of an inspection by that officer lately transmitted.

General Remarks.

The public peace has been unbroken, and the laws have been firmly and judiciously administered.

I continue to receive cordial support from the executive officers of the Colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. E. Kennedy, Governor.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Attorney-General's Office,
May 6, 1874.

Sir,

I have the honour to report as to the Returns for 1873, relating to crime, as follows:

The year was distinguished by a marked diminution of serious offences. The one case of murder reported in Table IV. had no connection with the Colony, arising, as it did, out of a piracy committed in Chinese waters; but the offender being arrested here was, in default of any demand for his rendition (until too late) on the part of the Chinese authorities, tried and convicted in the Supreme Court.

The cases mentioned of robbery with violence occurred either in remote parts of the Island or of the Kowloong peninsula, in districts too isolated and solitary to be under direct police supervision The amount of booty sufficient to tempt Chinese thieves to commit highway robbery is so small, in most cases amounting only to a string of cash and a few articles of clothing, and the means of concealment are so ample that it is extremely difficult to afford adequate protection to the Chinese who are compelled to make use of the hill tracks. It is, however, gratifying to know that this class of crime which has always

been common, is being gradually suppressed, and that the Chinese villagers dwelling in outlying districts have, in many recent instances, rendered valuable assistance in hunting down the criminals who infest their neighbourhoods and in bringing them to justice.

In the course of my official duties, particularly those connected with the conduct of prosecutions in the Supreme Court, I have been very favourably impressed with the increased and increasing efficiency of the colonial police force in dealing with crime. The Chinese portion of the force has proved especially useful, and experience of the fitness of the Chinese for police duties has confirmed me in the opinion I held and published as Chairman of the Police Commission of 1872. Their readiness in the identification of well-known bad characters and old offenders has most materially assisted Government in the prevention of crime; and in its detection, many of their members have displayed peculiar cleverness and activity. By their means the frequent robberies of cargo from ships and lighters in the harbour have been materially checked, and this is no slight praise in the face of the fact that the cargo boat people, men and women, seem as a race to be born and inveterate thieves, always seeking for and ready to take instant advantage of any opportunity for plunder. I especially recall one instance, in which the robbery of a large quantity of valuable silk in the harbour was brought to light by a Chinese sergeant within a few hours of its committal, and long before the loss was discovered by those who had charge of it; the whole of the property being recovered and the parties brought to punishment, under circumstances which, but for the readiness and acuteness of this man, would have rendered such a consummation impossible.

The number of offences reported to the police, though considerably less than those of 1872, continues, no doubt, to be large, but the great bulk of them were of a character more or less trivial. On the whole, having regard to the exceptional circumstances of this Colony with respect to crime, I think the statistics of 1873 evidence a substantial and satisfactory improvement.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) THOMAS C. HAYLLAR,
Acting-Attorney General.

The Hon. J. G. Austin,
Colonial Secretary.

ABSTRACT of CASES brought under cognizance at the POLICE MAGISTRATE'S COURT during a period of TEN YEARS from 1st JANUARY, 1864, to 31st DECEMBER, 1873, inclusive:—

Years	Total Number of Cases.	Cases, how disposed of, and the Number of Male and Female Prisoners under each head.															
		Convicted and Punished.		Discharged.		Committed for Trial at Supreme Court.		Committed to Prison or Detained pending Orders of His Excellency the Governor.		Ordered to find Security to Keep the Peace, to be of Good Behaviour, and to Answer any Charge.		Punished for Preferring False Charge or Giving False Testimony.		Undecided.		Total Number of Defendants.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1864	6,192	7,181	597	2,742	210	240	5	326	22	268	6	45	11	20	2	10,822	853
1865	6,144	6,650	501	3,473	259	301	7	362	40	179	2	50	8	24	3	11,039	820
1866	6,045	6,620	385	3,600	325	214	9	209	34	254	7	36	6	31	3	10,964	769
1867	5,983	7,150	735	2,398	169	142	13	57	18	144	5	64	15	31	1	9,986	956
1868	5,969	7,469	1,101	2,257	281	123	10	36	..	254	28	48	19	22	..	10,209	1,439
1869	4,731	4,413	504	1,998	186	120	9	9	2	295	23	41	8	32	..	6,908	732
1870	5,936	5,702	609	2,065	261	127	1	12	..	336	28	40	6	70	14	8,352	919
1871	6,400	6,143	673	2,406	311	148	1	28	..	414	16	40	7	32	9	9,211	1,017
1872	9,950	11,185	999	2,426	294	137	23	44	1	271	19	23	8	13	1	14,099	1,345
1873	9,137	8,810	1,352	1,798	266	67	10	15	..	171	29	37	10	35	6	10,933	1,673

MAGISTRACY, HONG KONG,
The 2nd February, 1874.

(True Copy)
J. GARDNER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

(Signed) C. MAY,
1st Police Magistrate.

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No. 14.

The OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Mauritius, October 15, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to submit the Mauritius Blue Book for 1873, during the greater part of which year I had the honour of being entrusted with the administration of the Government of this Colony, his Excellency Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon having been absent from the Island from the 16th January to the 23rd November last.

2. Few events of sufficient importance to require special mention have occurred during the past year. Fortunately the Island was not visited by any severe hurricane. Notwithstanding this the crop was not so large as was expected, though the prices which it realized were fairly remunerative.

3. Proposals for the extension of telegraphic communication to this Island were received from three different Companies to lay down a cable from Natal to Mauritius, and from Mauritius to Aden, with a branch to the neighbouring island of Reunion. One of these Companies, Hooper's Telegraph Work Company, signed contracts with the Cape and Natal Governments for the undertaking for an annual sum guaranteed by those Governments, and having demanded a guarantee from the Colony, I submitted the question to the Council of Government and recommended that a fixed annual subsidy, not exceeding 6,000*l.* for ten years, should be paid to any Company that would establish and maintain a submarine telegraph line with Mauritius, having, if possible, an intermediate station at Seychelles. This resolution was adopted without opposition. The Imperial Government has, I have recently been informed, authorized the Crown Agents to sign a contract with the above-named Company, who have undertaken to perform this work for the maximum of the subsidy voted by Council, and to complete it by the 31st December, 1875.

4. The want of telegraphic communication with the rest of the civilized world has been especially felt this year during the prevalence of the famine in India, on which country Mauritius is almost wholly dependent for its supplies of food, and no little anxiety was caused to Her Majesty's Government lest the stock of this grain should become insufficient to supply the wants of the community.

5. The Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the condition of the Indian immigrants finished their labours in this Colony and left in the month of October. Their Report has, however, not yet been completed, owing to the serious illness of one of the Commissioners.

6. A careful and minute inquiry into the whole of the civil establishments, as well as the other expenditure of the Colony, with a view of effecting any possible economy in its administration, was made during

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1873 by Mr. Julyan, one of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, who was deputed by the Secretary of State for that purpose. This Report has also not yet been received.

7. In the early part of 1873 the Colony was visited for the first time by an epidemic, well known in India as dengue fever. Only five deaths were directly attributable to this disease, but its debilitating effects left those who had suffered from its attacks an easy prey to malarious fever.

8. Measles, in an epidemic form, manifested itself at the end of September, and carried off 1,260 victims by the end of the year. It only ceased to be epidemic last May, having caused 859 more deaths during the present year. 70 per cent. of the deaths were amongst children under five years of age; 20 per cent. between the ages of 5 and 15, and 9 per cent. amongst persons above 15.

9. The arrival of a Coolie ship having had 12 deaths during the voyage, which were erroneously reported as from Asiatic cholera, caused great excitement and apprehension at the time, which, however, were soon allayed when the facts were correctly known.

Taxation.

10. The only new taxation imposed during 1873 was an additional Customs duty of 3*d.* a bag or cwt. on all grain, flour, and bran imported into the Colony. This rate was imposed after very careful consideration, as being the most equitable mode of providing additional funds for sanitary purposes, a subject of equal interest to all classes of the community. The additional duty is so small that it is hardly felt by such of the poorer classes as have to provide their own food. The greater part of employed labourers receive part payment of their wages in rations, the quantity of which is not affected by the cost price of food.

Revenue and Expenditure.

11. The revenue of the year 1873 exceeded the amount at which it had been originally estimated by 52,000*l.*, and also exceeded the expenditure by 33,000*l.* It came within 5,000*l.* of the revenue of the preceding year, that of Seychelles not being taken into account in either case.

12. The excess over estimates has been chiefly under the head of—1st, Licences and permits; 2nd, Customs; 3rd, Harbour dues; 4th, Interest; 5th, Transfer and mortgage dues; and 6th, Railways.

13. Compared with the revenue of the preceding year railways show an increase of 11,500*l.* The items, licences and permits, harbour dues and interest, also show a small increase. The Customs dues, however, fell short of receipts in 1872 by 21,000*l.*, although they exceeded the estimated amount by nearly 10,000*l.* The difference is accounted for by the larger quantity of rice, tobacco, and wine entered in 1872, and the greater quantity of sugar exported in that year. As large quantities of tobacco are always held in bond, the owners only paying the duty on its being entered for consumption, when it was known in the latter part of 1872 that it was propsoed to increase the duty on this article, its holders immediately entered

their stock for consumption to avoid the increased duty, and hence the quantity entered at the Customs in 1872 was unusually large.

14. The expenditure of 1873 exceeded the amount at which it was estimated by 29,756*l.* It also exceeded that of 1872 by 16,433*l.*, the expenditure of Shychelles being left out of the amount.

15. The principal items in which the expenditure was larger than in the preceding year were—

	Excess. £
Administration of justice	1,478
Police and gaols	1,620
Works and buildings	1,898
Miscellaneous	4,150
Interest	3,124
Drawback and refund	3,530
Railway	18,282

16. In the following items it was considerably less :—

	Less. £
Military expenditure	4,459
Immigration	4,680
Debenture debt	4,460
Roads and bridges	1,354
Civil store	1,866

The increase under the head Administration of Justice is owing to the amount paid as compensation to witnesses. The law regulating this matter and the tariff of fees are both under consideration, as the rates allowed are far too high, and the discretionary powers given to the taxing officer are far too large.

17. Under the head "Miscellaneous" were included the expenses of the Royal Commissioners, which amounted to 11,000*l.* Interest was swelled by the heavy premiums paid on remittances to England during the year.

18. The item "Drawback and Refund of Duties" has been increased principally by the refund to the credit of Seychelles of all Customs dues levied on goods which were subsequently reshipped to that dependency. These amounted to 2,322*l.*

19. A larger amount was paid in 1872 than in the previous year for police uniform, &c., and for stores imported for the Surveyor-General's Department.

20. The principal item, however, of the increased expenditure of 1873 was the charge for railways, which figures for no less than 18,000*l.* more than in the preceding year. The extra revenue earned during the same period was only 11,500*l.* It would appear at first sight that the extra work undertaken was performed at a loss: this, however, was not the case. The increased expenditure was caused principally by the building of 30 new waggons and by the enormous increase in the cost of fuel, of all metal, and of stores.

21. The gross revenue of the railway was estimated at 123,000*l.*, and reached the sum of 128,000*l.* The increase was principally from passenger traffic on the Midland Line.

22. The expenditure, on the other hand, which was estimated at 93,435*l.*, was no less than 106,000*l.*, leaving a margin of profit of

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only 21,000*l.* to go towards payment of interest and sinking fund, which amounted to 93,000*l.*

23. The above figures represent the actual receipts and payments on account of the railway during the year, and no allowance is made for the considerable amount of Government work performed by the railway. The figures given by the general manager in his annual Report differ from the foregoing, as he calculates in his receipts the value of all work, including that for the public service performed by the railway, and puts down only the costs of stores actually expended.

Local Revenues.

24. The revenue of the municipal corporation of Port Louis amounted to 39,333*l.*, and the expenditure was 37,862*l.*, leaving a balance of 1,471*l.* in favour of the corporation.

25. The municipal corporation paid off debenture bonds, which fell due to the amount of 2,500*l.*, and did not contract any fresh loans; their position therefore differs very little from what it was in 1872.

26. By Ordinance No. 6 of 1873, which imposed additional Custom duties on grain, the revenue of the General Board of Health was greatly augmented. Its revenue and expenditure for the last four years stand thus:—

	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.
	£	£	£	£
Revenue - - - - -	10,153	8,846	12,314	24,432
Expenditure - - - -	8,210	14,731	15,234	20,810

At the end of 1873 the amount due by the Board to the Government was 14,265*l.*

27. The expenditure of the Poor Law Commission in 1873 was 38,245*l.* against a revenue of 39,351*l.*, including 9,816*l.* net proceed of debentures issued.

28. This does not, however, represent the true position of the Commission, as considerable sums due to Government for treatment of paupers in the Civil Hospital and Lunatic Asylum have not yet been paid, and possibly will not be paid this year. I do not consider the position of the Poor Law Commission at all satisfactory.

29. It owes already 21,273*l.* for money borrowed, besides 5,493*l.* for debts to Government above alluded to, and has applied for authority to issue further debentures, which authority, however, has not yet been granted. Out of a total expenditure of 38,245*l.* no less than 7,701*l.*, or about one-fifth, are applied to salaries of the staff by whom the poor relief is administered.

Military Expenditure.

30. 22,593*l.* was the total amount contributed in 1873. The number of troops composing the garrison was about the same as in 1872; but two months' arrears for 1871 were accounted for in 1872, which made the expenditure of that year appear higher than in 1873.

Works and Buildings.

31. The only new works that were undertaken were a District Prison at Rivière du Rempart, a District and Stipendiary Court House at Flacq, and a Meteorological Observatory. The Meteorological Observatory has been completed during the beginning of this year, and is now occupied. The District Court is very nearly finished, and the prisons were completed and occupied last year.

32. A sum of 5,000*l.*, provided in the year 1873 for the construction of a central prison, has been set aside, as nothing has been done yet beyond determining on the site where it is to be erected. New plans and estimates of the work are under consideration, those previously prepared not having met with the approval of the Secretary of State. A like sum provided in the estimates of the present year will also remain unexpended and will probably be put aside. Should the work be undertaken in 1875 there will be an accumulated reserve of 10,000*l.* to start with, besides any further sum that may be provided in the Budget for that year.

Establishments.

33. The following statement of the expenditure under this head during the last six years shows a slight decrease during 1873:—

	Salaries.	Allowances and Contingencies.	Total.
	£	£	£
1868	211,627	28,505	240,132
1869	208,883	25,721	234,604
1870	206,365	28,207	234,572
1871	208,039	27,903	235,942
1872	205,144	24,603	229,747
1873	204,981	23,611	228,592

Population.

34. The population of the Island was estimated by the Registrar-General on 31st December, 1873, to be 331,782, or 5,328 more than in the preceding year. The proportion of males to females is nearly the same as in the preceding year, viz. 110 to 100 in what is called the general population, and 182 to 100 in the Indian population. There is an increase of 2 per cent. in the female element of the latter part of the community, which is satisfactory.

35. It is to be remarked, however, that in the general population, under which head are classed all persons not actually Indian immigrants, there has been a decrease of 224 souls, whilst in the Indian population there has been an increase of 5,552. The decrease in the former case being attributable to excess of deaths over births, and the increase in the latter instance being owing to excess of 548 births over deaths, and of 5,004 arrivals over departures.

36. The death-rate has unfortunately increased during the past year. An outbreak of measles, elsewhere alluded to, contributed to swell the rate. The deaths from this cause amounted to 1,260, and

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occurred principally in the last quarter of the year, and nearly one-half of them in the town of Port Louis alone.

37. The Registrar-General considers the density of the population to be one of the chief causes of the insalubrity of the Colony, and states, in support of this view, that the area in acres of land to each person is in the town and district of Port Louis, 0·10, and in the whole Island, 1·35; whilst in the United Kingdom it is 2·48; in Ireland, 3·75; and in Scotland, 5·89.

38. Malarious fever was as usual the principal cause assigned for the mortality, and I regret to observe that a comparison of the deaths from this cause with previous years shows a steady progression.

39. In 1870 the number of deaths from fever was 3,329
1871 - - - - - - - 3,581
1872 - - - - - - - - 4,231
1873 - - - - - - - 5,031

The death-rate from fever in Port Louis was 25·6 and in the rural districts 12·4 per 1,000, which shows the comparatively unhealthy state of the town.

40. The respective death-rates of the two classes, into which the population are divided for statistical purposes, show a far higher standard of health during the past year amongst the Indians than amongst the general population. In the former it was 30·4 per 1,000, and in the later 41·1. The death-rate on sugar estates was 5 per 1,000 lower than that of other localities.

41. The Registrar-General remarks that the cool and bracing weather of the second quarter of the year, which is so beneficial to the European and Creole part of the community, seems to have a contrary effect on the Indian population.

42. Of children under 1 year of age 19·5 per cent. of the registered births died during the year. The mortality amongst children under 5 years was 42·4 per cent. of the total mortality. This high mortality is attributed to measles.

43. The number of children born alive were 5,891 males and 5,643 females, or a birth-rate of 34·7 per 1,000, which is very little lower than that of the United Kingdom, although the proportion of males to females in the latter place is 100 to 105, and in the former 154 to 100. The proportions of births to females was 80 per 1,000 in general population and in Indian 92 per 1,000. In England it is only 70. This shows the extraordinary fecundity of Indian women. The steady and progressive increase of the Indian population, independent of immigration and in spite of epidemics, will no doubt become more remarkable as the proportion of the sexes comes to be equalized; and the Registrar-General asks the serious question, what will become of this rising population if they are not content to work in the cane-fields, as their fathers did before them?

44. The immigration returns show, however, that 5,501 persons, or about 8·40 per cent. of the engaged labourers on estates in 1873, were Indian Creoles, and that there has been a steady increase in the number so employed since 1869, when there were only 2,938. There is, moreover, a great scarcity of skilled labour in the Colony, and the different trades of artisans are almost entirely monopolized at present

by Creoles. The rising generation of Indians might turn their attention with profit in this direction, but it is to be regretted that the majority of those who have received some slight education prefer petty trading, or aspire to clerical rather than to skilled and more laborious employment.

Immigration.

45. 5,226 males and 2,328 females were introduced from India in 1873, and 2,160 males and 875 females embarked for that country. In the latter numbers are comprised 224 males and 283 females born in Mauritius.

46. I regret to have to remark the high mortality at sea during the past year in vessels coming from Calcutta, which was at the rate of 18·59 per 1,000.

47. The attention of the agent at Calcutta has been specially called to this circumstance, as it was supposed that the selection of Coolies had not been so careful as it might have been.

48. The medical officers in charge of the Calcutta Depot states that the mortality has been unusually high during the past year, not only in vessels which left for Mauritius, but also in those carrying Coolies to the West Indies, and asserts that in the last decade a similar year occurred, where deaths at sea were very numerous on every line of passage, and under every variety of nation and circumstance, so that the assignment of local and particular causes was impossible. I have not the means of verifying this assertion, but the fact that the mortality amongst Coolies sent from Madras during 1873 was only 7·47 per cent., does not seem to confirm his views, and would rather go to prove that all emigrants from Calcutta have carried with them latent germs of disease, which have been developed on the passage.

49. In consequence of the benefit that immigrant Coolies were observed to derive from a short residence at one of the quarantine stations, it was resolved in July last that all such immigrants, whether healthy or not, should be landed there in order to allow them to have sea bathing, to receive clean clothing, and to have exercise before being distributed to their employers. This resolution of the Government was found very obnoxious by masters of vessels bringing Coolies, on whom extra trouble and detention was thereby entailed, and it has been sought to represent that the quarantine stations are for several reasons unfit to be used as such. I am satisfied, however, that the complaints that have been brought forward as regards Cannonier Point Station are unfounded; and that the objections are capable of removal as regards the other station of Flat Island, where improvements are now being effected.

50. The condition of the Indian population during the past year appears to have been fairly prosperous. Complaints by labourers of non-payments of wages, and by masters of desertion of labourers, have both fallen off in a remarkable degree since the calamitous years ending in 1869. The number of suicides has also greatly decreased. The death-rate on sugar estates was, as already stated, 5 per 1,000 lower than in other localities. Of their material prosperity some opinion may be formed by the circumstance that 107,916*l.* were held in deposit at the Savings Bank for Indians at the end of the year, of

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which 45,865*l.* were deposited in the course of the year. 2,848*l.* were remitted to India through the Protector's Office; besides which, the Acting Protector ascertained that during the last six months 16,500*l.* had been taken away in cash by 615 persons. Of the previous six months no note had been taken; but presuming the amount to have been the same, a total of upwards of 35,000*l.* may be fairly estimated as having been taken back to India by old immigrants, who but a few years ago landed here without a penny in their pockets. Judging by the fact that during the present year 49,000*l.* has already been taken away by returning Coolies, this estimate does not seem unreasonable.

Education.

51. Although serious interruption was caused by the dengue fever and the measles, the year 1873 was a notable epoch in the history of the Royal College. Three students passed the second B.A. examination, and were admitted to the degree of B.A. of the University of London. This is the first occasion upon which the students of the College, resident in Mauritius, have passed this examination.

52. Examinations were for the first time held at the Royal College in connection with the local examinations of the University of Cambridge; and the English scholarships were awarded in accordance with a special examination, conducted, by means of printed papers, by examiners appointed by the syndicate of the University.

53. The Curepipe school met with excellent success.

Government Schools.

54. 5,275 pupils were borne on the rolls of the Government Schools, and 2519 on those of the aided schools, which figures show an increase of 235 and 397 respectively on those of the previous year, in spite of the epidemics of dengue and measles.

55. The grade system is in full operation in the Government Schools. As yet it has not been brought to bear on schools assisted by grants in aid. Of the former 2165 scholars were presented for examination at the annual general inspection, of whom 71 per cent. passed. Three pupils obtained College Scholarships at the competitive Examination of Government Schools. Six trained male teachers and three female were also passed out from the Normal School.

Administration of Justice.

56. The usual returns of civil and criminal cases tried before the Supreme Court are annexed, as also the Report of the Procureur-General on crime.*

57. This Report does not call for any special remarks from me, as although there was a slight increase in the number of cases, it was not much more than would be accounted for by the increase in the population.

58. The number of convictions and acquittals in the inferior courts were—

	1872.	1873.
Convictions - - -	14,467	15,536
Acquittals - - -	11,779	13,105

* Not printed.

59. Those before the assizes were—

	1872.	1873.
Convictions - - - -	53	71
Acquittals - - -	31	19

60. Ten persons were tried for murder and attempt at murder, of whom four were acquitted and one was executed. There was one case of rape and no case of unnatural crime.

61. The number of prisoners sentenced to one month or upwards was 1,926, and of those sentenced to less than one month, 5,977; 1,247 had been convicted once before, 1,058 twice, and 1,021 three or more times.

Gaols and Prisoners.

62. The total number of commitments to gaol in 1873 was 10,393.

63. The accommodation was calculated for 1749 persons, and the average number locked up was 1,072. Occasionally the number of prisoners exceeded the available space for confinement in one or other of the prisons, but this was immediately remedied by drafting off the excess to another prison where there was room.

64. The mortality in the gaols was higher than in the previous year, viz.: 3·54 per cent. on the average daily lock up, or 3·52 per 1,000 on the total number who passed through the gaol in the year; this, however, is not a very high rate. The difference was caused by a greater number of cases of malarious fever, some of them supervening upon dengue. Many deaths occurred very shortly after entering prison, the subjects being in a very low state of health when committed.

65. The number of persons passing through all the prisons during the last five years has been—

1869 - - -	23,660
1870 - - - -	20,234
1871 - - -	16,045
1872 - - - -	12,828
1873 - - -	11,420

giving a difference of 12,240 persons between 1869 and 1873. There is no doubt that a less strict application of the laws of vagrancy is the principal cause of this great difference.

Government Reformatory.

66. The number of inmates, which was 263 on 1st January, 1873, decreased to 194 on 31st December. Only 31 new boys were sent to the institution during the year, although there is little doubt that many fit subjects are at large following a life of idleness, from which the transition to vice and crime is but too easy; 28 were apprenticed and 80 discharged. The mortality was 21, of whom 13 from measles, of which there were no less than 103 cases, in spite of the establishment having been kept in quarantine in the hope of escaping the epidemic.

Legislation.

67. No new laws of any very great importance were passed in 1873.

68. The one of most importance was an Ordinance to remove doubts with regard to the Convocation of Family Councils. This Ordinance, entirely remedial, was rendered indispensable by a decision of the Supreme Court, which raised serious doubts as to the validity of the course which had been invariably followed since the Supreme Court had been established. The titles of many estates in the Colony depend for their validity upon the validity of these Family Councils.

69. A Post Office money order system between the United Kingdom and this Island and Seychelles, was established by Ordinance 4 of 1873, and the public has shown its appreciation of the advantages conferred by largely availing itself of the new law.

70. The rate of interest on savings bank deposits was reduced by Ordinance 12 of 1873 from 5 to 4 per cent. This step was rendered necessary by a general reduction in the value of money in the Colony.

71. Additional funds required by the Boards of Health, were provided by Ordinance 6 of 1873, imposing an extra duty on grain. This extra duty is estimated to have produced 7,323*l.* from 1st May, when the Ordinance came into force, until the end of the year.

Imports and Exports.

72. The imports of 1873 are valued by the Customs department at 2,165,400*l.*, and the exports at 3,238,700*l.* Specie is not included in these figures, as the amount declared at the Customs is not a correct measure of what has been actually introduced or sent away.

73. The imports fall short of those of 1872 by about 300,000*l.* In that year an unusually large quantity of tobacco from bond was entered to avoid a proposed increase in the duty; and the quantity of rice imported was also larger than usual. There has been a slight falling off in the quantity of French wines introduced in 1873. The rest of the principal imports have been the same as in 1872.

74. The exports of 1873 are valued a little higher than those of 1872, although the quantity of sugar shipped was not so large. Its value was estimated at about 2*s.* 8½*d.* per cwt. higher than that shipped in 1872.

75. Trade between Mauritius and Madagascar has during the last few years taken considerable extension. Cotton manufactures, haberdashery, hardware and cutlery, and spirits are the principal exports from hence to that country. The spirits are mostly of colonial manufacture; the other articles are imports from England. The value of these exports for the past four years has been—

	£
1870	47,500
1871	68,000
1872	81,000
1873	88,000

76. Caoutchouc promised to become an item of considerable importance in the imports from Madagascar; but the Government of that country has lately decided on monopolizing the trade in that article, and the quantity imported in 1873 consequently fell off to about half what it was in the previous year. The value of these imports was—

	£
1870 - - -	13,000
1871 - - -	31,000
1872 - - -	84,000
1873 - - -	40,700

77. The trade between Mauritius and Madagascar, though no doubt very valuable in a commercial point of view to the Colony, does not produce any Government revenue, as the exports are made from bond, and the caoutchouc is also re-exported in the same manner.

78. Two articles of Mauritius produce also deserve notice as comparatively a new feature in the exports from the Colony. These are vanilla and aloe fibre, the production of both of which will probably largely increase.

79. The exports have been—

	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.
	£	£	£	£
Vanilla - -	2,860	3,345	10,560	12,216
Aloe fibre - -	—	437	4,634	4,416

General Remarks.

80. The balance due to the Colony on 31st December last was 95,880*l.*, or, including arrears of revenue, which may be looked upon as likely to be recovered, 103,094*l.*

81. This is, as far as it is possible to ascertain, the true balance due to the Colony. It has been arrived at in the following manner: For many years past the assets have included considerable sums that were hopelessly irrecoverable, which are shown in a foot note on the Statement of Assets. These have been omitted, and have recently been struck out of the accounts of the Colony with the sanction of Council. They will not therefore figure any more in these returns.

82. Further, the sum of 50,390*l.*, advanced to railway construction account, has been reduced to 15,000*l.*, which is estimated as the amount which will probably be realized by the sale of the railway property no longer required.

83. From the liabilities also have been deducted several sums, amounting in all to 15,411*l.*, which from lapse of time or other causes are not likely ever to be claimed.

84. The available balance of the Colony on 31st December last was 32,754*l.* The year before it was stated to have been 37,000*l.*; but it is really larger for 1873 than for 1872, as for the last-mentioned year the amount due for interest to savings bank depositors was not deducted, as it had not been ascertained at the time the statement was made up. The available balance for 1872 should have been reduced by 10,000*l.* on this account.

MAURITIUS.

85. A central prison and a new lunatic asylum are still two of the most urgent wants of the Island. It is proposed to erect them both on a piece of ground at Beau Bassin, six miles out of town, near a station on the Midland Railway, and at an elevation of 750 feet above the sea, with a sufficient supply of water. Beyond selecting the site nothing was done in 1873. The ground is now being prepared for the erection of the Lunatic Asylum, the plans of which have been made. Those for the Central Prison did not meet the approval of the Secretary of State, who transmitted others for consideration, which were not thought adapted to local requirements. The work has consequently not been commenced.

86. The General Board of Health has filled in about five acres more of the unhealthy lagoon situate on the north-east of the harbour, and known as the Mer Rouge, on which about 2,000 trees have been planted. Those previously planted have given evidence of the amount of organic matter they have been using up, by the rapidity and luxuriance of their growth.

87. At the suggestion of the Board about 50,000 trees were planted by the Director of the Botanical Gardens on the low and swampy grounds of Cassis, situate on the opposite side of the harbour, besides about 350,000 on the slopes of the mountains round Port Louis.

88. The dredging of the Caudan and Fanfaron Basins, and of the shallower parts of the harbour where the refuse brought down by the violent torrents of rain which fall in the summer months accumulate, has been carried on steadily, and it is estimated that about 170,000 tons of silt, mud, &c., have been removed during the year. The outlet of the Creole Stream into the harbour has been deepened, and diverted to another part, where it can be dredged when necessary.

89. In the districts the General Board of Health has rendered great service in establishing or augmenting the water supply of several villages which were dependent on impure sources. A good deal, however, remains to be done in works of this nature.

90. In the town of Port Louis the Local Board has laid down a large extent of effective street gutters in the place of the imperfect old ones, which permitted soakage through in all directions, and has made great progress with the large catch-water drain intended to intercept the rain water coming down the signal mountain, which now swamps a great part of the western suburb. Notwithstanding these works and an improved night service, the sanitary condition of the town does not improve, and it is doubtful whether any amelioration will take place until a system of subsoil drainage is introduced, not necessarily for the purpose of removing night-soil, but for carrying off refuse waters and liquid impurities, which now keep the ground continually in a state of greater or less saturation. Unfortunately, there exist strong, though, in my opinion, mistaken prejudices against subsoil drainage.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Carnarvon, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) EDWARD NEWTON.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 15.

THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE HONOURABLE THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Registrar General's Office,
Sydney, August 10, 1874.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to you the various Statistical Returns of New South Wales for the year 1873. A summary of the agricultural and live stock returns was, some time since, presented to Parliament and ordered to be printed, in anticipation of the publication of the usual yearly volume. By this means a very valuable portion of the information which the statistics afford was made public a considerable time in advance of former years.

I now proceed to report on the whole of the Returns, commencing in the order in which they are placed

PART I.

POPULATION, VITAL STATISTICS, IMMIGRATION.

At the close of the year 1873 the population of the Colony was estimated at 560,275 persons, of whom males numbered 307,329, and females 252,946, showing a balance of 54,383 on the side of the male sex, For every 1,000 of the population there were 549 males and 451 females. The increase in population during the year was 21,085 souls, which is mainly due to natural increase

Marriages, Births, Deaths.

The number of marriages celebrated in the Colony during the year 1873 was 4,384, or nearly 8 to every 1,000 of population. As compared with 1872, the increase was 459.

Of the marriages celebrated by different religious bodies, the Church of England shows 1,547; Roman Catholic, 992; Presbyterian, 914; Wesleyan Methodists, 462; Congregationalists, 164; and each of the other denominations under 100. Registrar's Offices contribute 179.

The number of births registered in the year amounted to 21,444, being an increase of 194 on the previous year. The number of each sex was 10,952 males and 10,492 females. The proportion of births to population is 39 to every 1,000.

There were 7,611 deaths recorded, or nearly 14 to every 1,000 of population. Male deaths numbered 4,599, and female 3,012, the former being 1,587 in excess of the latter. The increase of total deaths on the previous year was 143.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Immigration.

The number of arrivals from the United Klngdom during the year 1873 was 1,033, viz., 888 adults and 145 children. Of the total number only 140 were immigrants at the public expense. The number of persons who arrived in the Colony, including intercoıonial as well as foreign, was 24,022.

Lunatic and Invalid Institutions.

The return for the Hospital of the Insane, at Gladesville, shows the total admissions for the year to be 296, and that there were 770 patients under care during the year. Those discharged on recovery numbered 100, and 22 were discharged relieved; there were also 57 removed from the establishment not improved; and 30 deaths are recorded. The total of discharges and deaths was 209, leaving 561 inmates remaining on 31st December last.

The expense incurred in maintenance was 14,300*l.*, being an increase of 1,345*l.* on the year 1872.

The Asylum for Free Lunatics, at Parramatta, shows a total of 816 patients under treatment during the year 1873, of which number there were 67 admissions. The discharges on recovery were 16; discharges relieved, 4; escaped, 2; and 48 deaths; in all, 70. The number of inmates at the end of the year was 746. There were also 40 convict lunatics under treatment during the year, of whom 1 died, leaving 39 at the close of the year.

The sum expended on these asylums was 15,587*l.*, as against 13,445*l.* in 1872.

The sum of 901*l.* was expended on the Lunatic Receiving House, at Darlinghurst; and the Lunatic Asylum for Imbeciles and Institution for Idiots, at Newcastle, absorbed 4,215*l.* There was also a sum of 2,086*l.* paid to Bay-view House Lunatic Asylum, at Cook's River, for the support of lunatics from Government asylums. The total number of lunatics, &c., remaining in the various establishments on 31st December last was 1,531; and the total charge on the public purse was 37,090*l.*, which is an increase of 4,096*l.* on the previous year.

Charitable Institutions.

Under this designation the returns show that there were during the year 1873, 40 institutions affording medical and surgical relief. It will be found that in the metropolis the Sydney Infirmary admitted 2,047 patients, and that there were 218 inmates on the 1st January; out of these numbers 1,784 were discharged, and 254 died, leaving 227 as patients on 31st December. Out-door relief was also afforded to 5,418 persons. The receipts for the year were 9,658*l.* from Government, and 2,943*l.* from voluntary aid; in all, 12,601*l.* A decrease on the previous year will be seen in the number of those who received out-door relief, and an increase in admissions, discharges, and deaths. The receipts also show an increase.

St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, is entirely supported by voluntary contributions, amounting to 1,368*l.* The number of inmates in this hospital at the beginning of the year was 36, and 323 were admitted

in the course of the year. There were 297 patients discharged, and 29 deaths occurred, which closed the year with 33 in the establishment. Out-door relief was afforded to 1,087 persons. The receipts of the year were in excess of 1872 by 325*l.* The number of persons admitted into the various country hospitals was 2,469, and the year commenced with 278 patients, from which figures 2,113 were discharged, and 351 deaths are recorded, leaving 283 inmates to commence a new year.

The receipts of these hospitals amounted to 21,937*l.*, of which sum 8,911*l.* was obtained from Government, and 13,026*l.* from voluntary contributions. The total amounts expended by Government and received from private sources, on all the hospitals of the Colony, during the year 1873, was 18,569*l.* and 17,337*l.* respectively; in all, 35,906*l.* Comparing these totals with 1872, there is an increase of 4,048*l.* from the public purse, and 2,419*l.* from other sources.

The principal Government benevolent asylums, viz., that in Hyde Park, Sydney, used for women, and those at Parramatta and Liverpool for males, admitted during the year 1,278 persons, and discharged 1,002. The deaths numbered 252, and there were remaining at the end of the year 1,075, having commenced the year with 1,051. The sum of 14,057*l.* was expended for maintenance. The asylum in Pitt-street, Sydney, cost 5,073*l.*, of which sum 4,127*l.* was from public funds, and 946*l.* from private contributions.

The asylum at Singleton was supported by 306*l.* from Government, and 270*l.* from private sources; in all, 576*l.* The total cost of benevolent asylums to the Government was 18,490*l.*, and 1,216*l.* was supplied otherwise, being an increase on 1872 of 1,784*l.*, and a decrease of 472*l.*, respectively.

Under the appellation of "Orphan and Industrial Schools" we find that the Protestant and Roman Catholic Schools, the Nautical School Ship "Vernon," and Industrial and Reformatory School for Girls at Biloela, which are purely Government establishments, were maintained at a cost of 12,672*l.*, which is a small increase on the expenditure of 1872.

The receipts of the Asylum for Destitute Children, at Randwick, amounted to 11,643*l.*, made up by 3,816*l.* from voluntary aid, and 7,827*l.* from Government, which latter amount includes 3,827*l.* paid for the maintenance of children received from the Benevolent Asylum, Sydney. The assistance rendered by Government to this institution is somewhat less, and that from voluntary contributions greater than the previous year. The Sydney Female School of Industry obtained 3,073*l.* from Government for building purposes, and the public supported the institution by the sum of 1,470*l.*, this sum being also in excess of the receipts of 1872.

The Deaf and Dumb and Blind Institution obtained from private funds the sum of 1,293*l.*, and was supplemented by the Government with 1,450*l.*, which includes 1,000*l.* for erection of building.

The Ragged Schools were supported wholly by voluntary contributions at a cost of 760*l.*

The total receipts of Orphan and Industrial Schools for the year 1873 were 32,362*l.*, the Government providing 25,023*l.*, and the balance was obtained from free contributions.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

In addition to the institutions already mentioned, the following were supported without assistance from Government, viz. Home Institution, House of The Good Shepherd, Sydney Sailors' Home, Sydney Female Refuge, and City Night Refuge and Soup Kitchen, which last-named establishment distributed during the year 70,308 meals, and afforded shelter in 25,746 cases.

The general total receipts of the charitable institutions of the Colony for the year 1873 amounted to 129,485*l.*, apportioned as follows:—From the Government, 99,173*l.*; from voluntary contributions, 30,312*l.*; being increased amounts on 1872 of 13,798*l.* and 3,136*l.*, respectively.

Wages.

On comparing the rate of wages with the year 1872, it will be seen that it ranged higher for all kinds of labour, and especially to household servants, who were difficult to be procured even at the high rate which was paid. From the following figures it will be shown what was the average rate of wages obtained by some of the principal classes.

	Without Board and Lodging.	With Board and Lodging.
Males—		
Carpenters	10*s.* per diem.	80*l.* to 100*l.* per annum.
Smiths	10*s.* „	80*l.* „ 100*l.* „
Wheelwrights	9*s.* „	70*l.* „ 90*l.* „
Bricklayers	10*s.* „	80*l.* „ 100*l.* „
Masons	10*s.* „	80*l.* „ 100*l.* „
Farm labourers	—	30*l.* „ 35*l.* „
Shepherds	—	30*l.* „ 40*l.* „
Females—		
Cooks (plain)	—	30*l.* „ 40*l.* „
Housemaids	—	26*l.* „ 30*l.* „
Laundresses	—	26*l.* „ 30*l.* „
Nursemaids	—	20*l.* „ 26*l.* „
General house-servants, dairy-women, &c.	—	26*l.* „ 30*l.* „.

PART II.

RELIGION, EDUCATION, CRIME.

The information contained in the Ecclesiastical Returns will be found to be wanting in some few particulars, but as a whole may be considered to be sufficiently correct for the purpose of report.

It will be seen that the number of ministers belonging to the various religious denominations, and who were registered in this Office to celebrate marriages, had increased from 503 in 1872 to 546 in 1873. For the sake of convenience I shall treat them as connected with those denominations which received pecuniary aid from the Government, and those which were not in this position. In the first class we find that there were 466 ministers. Under the heads of Salary and Allowances, and Church or Schools Estates, the sums received were 20,115*l.* and 3,766*l.* respectively; compared with 1872

there is a decrease of 1,412*l.* and 134*l.* Ministers belonging to non-recipient churches numbered 80. The general total of churches or chapels was 1,021, which provided 162,931 individual sittings. The estimated attendance on the Sunday services is given at 148,320, and a further number of 36,012 in places used for public worship other than those before mentioned. The increases in these figures on 1872 were as follows: Churches or chapels, 45; sittings, 4,374; attendance, 4,987.

Sunday Schools.

These schools, which in 1872 numbered 962, increased in 1873 to 1,023. Teachers from 6,234 to 6,497. Children on the registers, from 64,856 to 67,586, and the average attendance, from 49,027 to 51,474. This return is also deficient, but not so as materially to affect the comparison made.

Day Schools.

The return of private schools for 1873 does not exhibit any marked difference on that of 1872. The number of teachers engaged in tuition during the year was 904; of schools, 555; and of scholars, 16,035.

The schools in connection with the Council of Education numbered 942 and teachers 1,389, composed of 877 males and 512 females. The number of children attending the schools was 49,545 males and 42,758 females, in all 92,303, being an increase on the previous year of 3,816. The increase on the year 1872 in the number of children attending public schools was 2,548; provisional schools, 875; and half-time schools, 445. The denominational schools show the following results, viz., Church of England, a decrease of 713; Roman Catholic, an increase of 484; Presbyterian, an increase of 28; Wesleyan, an increase of 201; and Hebrew a decrease of 52. The total decrease in denominational schools is therefore 52.

The total amount paid out of the Colonial Treasury towards the support of these schools was 121,285*l.*, which includes a sum of 1,285*l.* from the Clergy and School Estates Revenue Fund, and is less by 2,316*l.* than the sum paid in 1872.

The amount received from contributions, fees, and other sources in 1873, was 55,006*l.*, being an increase on 1872 of 4,857*l.* In apportioning the fees among the different classes of schools we find first on the list that the public schools contributed 34,638*l.*, in which is comprised 6,058*l.* as local contributions on account of buildings.

Provisional schools produced 3,431*l.*, and half-time schools 530*l.*

(Denominational schools) Church of England, 8,600*l.*; Roman Catholic, 5,664*l.*; Presbyterian, 1,098*l.*; Wesleyan, 946*l.*; Hebrew, 99*l.* All these items show an increase on 1872, with the exception of Presbyterian, Wesleyan, and Hebrew schools.

The total amount expended on schools under the control of the Council of Education was 176,291*l.*

	1872.			1873.		
	No. of Schools.	No. of Teachers.	No. of Scholars.	No. of Schools.	No. of Teachers.	No. of Scholars.
Public Schools - - -	396	676	46,458	400	685	49,006
Provisional ditto - - -	194	194	6,673	216	216	7,548
Half-time ditto - - -	101	47	1,792	117	59	2,237
	691	917	54,923	733	960	58,791
Denominational Schools—						
Church of England - -	98	203	16,590	96	209	15,877
Roman Catholic - - -	85	162	13,065	87	170	13,549
Presbyterian - - -	16	26	2,106	15	24	2,134
Wesleyan - - - -	11	21	1,539	10	21	1,740
Hebrew - - - -	1	3	264	1	5	212
	211	415	33,564	209	429	33,512

The University of Sydney, with the affiliated Colleges of St. Paul's, St. John's, and St. Andrew's, received pecuniary aid from the Government to the amount of 6,412*l.* Contributions, fees, &c., to the University amounted to 2,421*l.*, and to St. Paul's College 1,005*l.*; the number of students was 47 at the University, 12 at St. Paul's, and 4 at St. John's.

The roll of the Sydney Grammar School shows 293 scholars and 13 masters. The Government endowment was 1,500*l.* as usual, and fees, &c., came to 3,836*l.*, in all 5,336*l.* As compared with 1872 there is an increase of 34 scholars and 2 masters; and the excess of fees was 361*l.*

The general total of those receiving instruction throughout the Colony during the year was 110,287, and the sum expended was 221,598*l.* Fees paid to private schools is not of course included in this last sum.

Crime.

The Supreme and Circuit Courts records show that during the year 1873 there were 347 committals, of which 327 went to trial; the result being 203 or 62·08 per cent. of convictions, and 124 or 37·92 per cent. of acquittals. The increase on 1872 is 38 committals, 84 trials, 31 convictions, and 54 acquittals.

In the Courts of Quarter Sessions it will be seen there were 819 committals, of which 667 were sent to trial, which terminated in 444, or 66·57 per cent. convictions, and 223 or 33·43 per cent. acquittals.

These returns do not exhibit any great difference on the year 1872 On looking at the Decennial Table of Convictions in the Supreme and Circuit Courts and Courts of Quarter Sessions it will be found that the total number of convictions during the year was 647, the mean of the decade being 655.

The Summary Jurisdiction Returns show that during the year 1873 there were 21,784 persons taken into custody, of whom about 70 per cent. were convicted, 5 per cent. committed for trial, and 25 per cent. discharged.

Out of the total number of convictions, about 61 per cent. were for

drunkenness; the number of drunkards being 9,246, which is an increase of 1,404 on the year 1872.

Examining the educational status of the prisoners received into the various gaols of the Colony during the year 1873 it will be found that 43·56 per cent. could read and write, 32·02 per cent. could read only, and 24·42 per cent. were not able to read or write.

PART III.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Imports and Exports.

On page 48 will be found a return showing the value of imports and exports of the Colony for the year 1873.

Before making any observations I must call attention to the fact that no returns have been made of the import and export trade across and viâ the river Murray, which causes a considerable decrease under both heads, more particularly in exports. In order to show something like what would have been the result if the returns had been kept of overland traffic from and to Victoria and South Australia, I shall, after quoting the figures in the return, add the overland traffic figures for 1872.

The general total value of imports as shown in the return is 10,471,483*l*.. as against 9,208,496*l*. in 1872, being an increase of 1,262,987*l*.

The rate of imports per head of population* is 19*l*. 1*s*. 3¾*d*., and 1*l*. 12*s*. 3¾*d*. in excess of the previous year. Adding the figures of overland imports for 1872, we have a total of 11,088,388*l*., and an increase on 1872 of 1,879,892*l*., or 20*l*. 3*s*. 9¼*d*. per head of population.

Imports from the United Kingdom amounted in value to 5,137,139*l*., the difference in favour of the year under consideration being 1,408,682*l*.

From British Colonies the value as shown by the return is 4,234,981*l*., and a decrease on the previous year of 417,872*l*., which, with the addition of overland trade of 1872, becomes an increase of 199,033*l*.

Without taking into account the overland import items, we find a decrease from Victoria of 100,231*l*.

New Zealand also shows a decrease of 128,001*l*., Queensland an increase of 79,151*l*., also South Australia of 65,174*l*., and Tasmania of 25,752*l*.; the total decrease from these Colonies being 58,155*l*. Under other British Colonies the principal items of increase are from Point de Galle, 126,886*l*.; Hong Kong, 21,068*l*.; and Mauritius, 116,248*l*.

From foreign States we received goods to the value of 1,099,363 which is an excess of 272,177*l*. on 1872. The chief increase here is from the United States, 66,568*l*.; China, 133,757*l*.; and Honolulu, 41,082*l*.

The returns of exports for the year 1873 make the general total

* At the middle of the year, 549,217.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

to be 9,387,873*l.*, or at the rate of 17*l.* 1*s.* 10½*d.* per head of population, which is considerably lower than in 1872.

Taking the overland and viâ Murray export figures for the year 1872 as an estimate for 1873, which must be admitted to be a low one, we find our exports to amount to 11,815,829*l.*, showing an increase on 1872 of 1,368,780*l.*, and bringing the rate per head of population to 21*l.* 10*s.* 3¼*d.*

The value of exports to the United Kingdom amounted to 6,657,559*l.*, being an increase of 1,730,831*l.*

Omitting overland and viâ Murray exports to Victoria and South Australia, British Colonies took 2,304,491*l.* worth of goods, which is a decrease on 1872 of 413,571*l.*

Our exports to Victoria (seaward) show a decrease on 1872 of 125,722*l.*; and to South Australia (seaward) and increase of 36,658*l.*

The New Zealand exports trade increased by 50,223*l.*; Queensland shows a decrease of 143,614*l.*; and Tasmania also of 18,949*l.*

Foreign States were our customers to the amount of 425,823*l.*, being 51,520*l.* in excess of 1872. The returns show a grand total of 1,083,610*l.* in the value of imports over exports.

With the overland and viâ Murray traffic figures of 1872, exports will be found to be in excess of imports by 1,344,346*l.*

Shipping.

The shipping return of vessels entering the various ports of the Colony during the year 1873 exhibit the following particulars as to number and tonnage.

	No.	Tonnage.
From Great Britain - -	344	271,625
„ British Possessions -	1,654	530,448
„ Foreign States - -	163	72,731
Total - -	2,161	874,804

Comparing these figures with those of the year 1872 we find the increase in the number of vessels is 150, representing 100,314 tons. The principal part of this increase is in vessels from Great Britain, of which there is an increase of 145. Ships from British Possessions are fewer by 20, and from foreign States there is an increase of 25.

The destination of vessels inward bound with their number and tonnage is as follows:—

	No.	Tonnage.
Sydney - - - -	1,079	474,203
Newcastle - - - -	978	389,121
Grafton - - - -	18	2,162
Eden - - - - -	4	1,987
Richmond River - - -	53	6,172
Tweed River - - - -	29	1,159
Total - -	2,161	874,804

The measurement of vessels entering Port Jackson is in excess of 1872 by 56,039 tons; Newcastle also shows an excess of 46,707 tons, and Tweed River 531 tons. In the other ports above named there is a decrease.

Referring now to the return of outward-bound vessels during the year 1873, it will be seen that the particulars are as follows:—

	No.	Tonnage.
To Great Britain - - -	327	259,481
„ British Possessions - -	1,722	557,299
„ Foreign States - -	163	70,894
Total - - -	2,212	887,674

In comparison with the previous year there is a total excess in the measurement of outward-bound vessels of 74,124 tons, viz. 86,297 tons to Great Britain, and to British Colonies 15,222 tons. Foreign States are less by 27,395 tons. The number and tonnage of vessels leaving the several ports of the Colony during the year 1873 are as follows:—

	No.	Tonnage.
From Sydney - - -	816	367,351
„ Newcastle - - -	1,259	498,468
„ Grafton - - -	34	4,141
„ Eden - - - -	26	10,900
„ Richmond River - -	46	5,619
„ Tweed River - - -	31	1,195
Total - -	2,212	887,674

The increase or decrease respectively on the year 1872, in tonnage of outward-bound vessels from the ports of the Colony, is: from Port Jackson, an increase of 6,606 tons; also from Newcastle, 70,623 tons; and Tweed River, 460 tons. From Grafton there is a decrease of 2,836 tons; and from Eden, of 2,236 tons.

The building and registering of new vessels during the year 1873 has caused a large accession to our mercantile marine. The number of new vessels built and registered is 176, being 63 in excess of the year 1872. The total number of vessels of all kinds registered in the Colony now amounts to 541, with a measurement of 12,908 tons.

PART IV.

MILLS AND MANUFACTURES.

During the year 1872 there were in the Colony 7,769 manufactories and works of all descriptions; and the returns for 1873 show that these were increased by 506, being a total of 8,275. The various manufactories and machines connected with agriculture numbered 6,333, as against 5,940 in 1872.

The number of mills employed in the grinding and dressing of grain was 182, being a slight decrease on the previous year. Out of

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the total uumber of these mills 154 were driven by steam, 15 by water, 6 by wind, and 7 by horse-power.

In the working of raw materials, the production of the pastoral interest, we find there were 394 manufactories or machines, being 13 in excess of 1872. Among these works there are 7 establishments for the mannfacture of woollen cloth and tweeds, which articles were produced to the extent of 321,070 yards, which is an increase of 119,810 yards on the previous year.

Under the head of miscellaneous works will be seen an increase in the number of the following manufactories, viz., boot, from 38 to 53; coach and waggon, from 85 to 103; ship and boat building yards, from 90 to 103.

PART V.

PRODUCTION.

The total quantity of gold received by escort and assayed by the Mint during the year 1873 amounted to 328,197 ounces, of the value of 1,264,748*l.*

As compared with the previous year the quantity is diminished by 63,989 ounces, and the value by 248,438*l.*

The Western Gold District supplied 268,418 ounces, being a reduction on 1872 of 38,849 ounces. Hargraves and Windeyer and Stony Creek are the only fields exhibiting increased yields.

From the Southern Gold District the return shows a decrease on 1872 of 24,115 ounces, the total for the year under consideration being 50,693 ounces. From some of the gold fields in this district there is a large decrease in the yield: for instance, the Araluen Gold Fields from 20,000 to 7,236 ounces; Braidwood, from 15,644 to 10,086 ounces; Tumut, from 4,282 to 2,854 ounces; Burrangong, from 8,475 to 3,815 ounces; Tumberumba and Wagga Wagga, from 3,719 to 825 ounces; Goulbourn, from 1,827 to 364 ounces. From two gold fields only is there an increase, viz., from Adelong from 17,042 to 21,607 ounces, and from Gundagai from 874 to 1,809 ounces.

The decrease on 1872 from the Northern Gold District is 1,025 ounces, the yield for the year 1873 being 9,086 ounces. There is a general decrease in the yield of gold from the fields in this district, with the exception of Rocky River, which shows an increase of 673 ounces. The total quantity of gold received by escourt into the Mint during the last ten years amounts to 2,731,540 ounces, valued at 10,528,093*l.*

Coal.

On perusing that part of the return of mines which has reference to the production of coal and shale, a large increase will be found both in quantity and value on the year 1872. The total quantity produced in 1873 is 1,192,861 tons, valued at 665,746*l.*, being an increase in quantity of 180,435 tons, and in value of 269,549*l.* Coal being one of our most important productions, I now give a few details to point out from whence arises the increase in our supply over the year 1872.

The collieries at Hartley have increased their quantity from 5,221 to 9,865 tons.

From the mines in the Maitland District we find that the quantity raised is 30,570 tons, being an increase of 6,538 tons.

The Newcastle Collieries show their production to be 1,014,223 tons, as against 858,716 tons, the increase here being 155,507 tons.

In the Wollongong District the increase in production on the year 1872 is 13,580 tons, the figures being 137,062 tons as against 123,482 tons. Two of the collieries in this district show a decrease in yield, but that at Bulli makes good the deficiency by an excess of 26,186 tons.

The total export of coal for 1873 is 773,079 tons, which left 419,782 tons for home consumption. The total value of our export trade for the year is 526,089*l.* The increase on the year 1872 is in quantity 103,969 tons, and in value 218,228*l.* The largest customers of this article of trade are as follows :—

	Tons.	Value.
Victoria	211,495	138,519*l.*
South Australia	82,779	46,976
Tasmania	12,254	8,299
New Zealand	108,687	71,195
Point de Galle	11,140	7,371
Shanghai	49,252	38,122
Hong Kong	64,879	45,331
United States	94,893	69,392
Mauritius	10,984	7,735
Manilla	13,049	9,200
Singapore	13,755	9,862
Calcutta	14,614	11,793
Java	14,505	11,289

Copper.

The produce of the copper mines of the Colony for the year 1873 is 6,027 tons, of the value of 156,626*l.* In this industry we also find a large increase in quantity and value over 1872, which is 4,142 tons of ore and 101,983*l.* in price.

Tin.

The quantity of tin ore produced during the year 1873 is found to be 3,060 tons, as against 718 tons in the previous year. The value is stated to be 152,916*l.*, being 104,084*l.* in excess of the sum set down for 1872.

Kerosine Shale.

There is an increase in the production of kerosine shale. The figures for the year under consideration being 17,850 tons, valued at 50,475*l.*, and for the year 1872 the quantity is 11,040 tons, valued at 28,700*l.*

Agriculture.

The agricultural returns for the year 1873 have been prepared with an additional table, giving the usual information in police districts. By making use of these divisions, which are for the most part analogous to the registration districts, it is thought that this portion of the statistics will be presented in a more intelligible shape.

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The number of holders of land (exclusive of occupiers of pastoral lands) exceeding the area of 1 acre, is 31,821, of which 21,447 are freeholders, 2,475 are free and lease holders, and 7,899 are solely leaseholders. In comparison with 1872 there is a total increase of 479 in the number of the three classes. The total area of land held by freeholders is 7,000,619 acres, and leaseholders occupy 3,507,897 acres. There is an increase under both these holdings of 694,425 acres and 25,363 acres respectively.

The extent of land enclosed but not under cultivation is 5,775,983 acres, which shows an increase of 641,594 acres on the year 1872. The area unenclosed being 4,275,708 acres as against 4,199,703 acres the previous year. The general total area of land held as freehold and leasehold is 10,508,516 acres, of which number there are 456,825 acres is cultivation. In grain crops we find wheat occupied 166,646 acres, which produced 2,238,414 bushels, being an average of over 13 bushels to the acre, and giving somewhat over 4 bushels per head of population.

The average set apart for the growth of maize is 116,141 acres, the yield of which is 4,120,112 bushels, being an average of 35 bushels to the acre. The breadth of land sown for barley is 3,558 acres, and the yield came to 66,225 bushels, or about 18½ bushels to the acre. Oats covered 16,173 acres, of which the produce is 302,600 bushels, being close on an average of 19 bushels per acre.

Rye and millet produced 17,646 and 4,372 bushels respectively. As compared with the previous year, these figures show a decrease of 660,049 bushels in the production of wheat, and 4,483 bushels of barley. In maize we find an increase of 135,154 bushels, and in oats, of 31,633 bushels.

The total quantity of hay produced during the year under review is 108,944 tons, distributed as follows:—From wheat, 9,362 tons; barley, 888 tons; oats, 52,870 tons; sown grasses, which includes lucerne, 45,824 tons. The increase or decrease on the years ending 31st March, 1873 and 1874, of each crop grown in the Colony, and the number of acres under tillage, with the produce thereof, will be found on reference to the following table:—

COMPARATIVE TABLE showing the increase or decrease in the acreage of the various crops under cultivation, as well as the produce, for the years ending 31st March, 1873 and 1874.

Crops.	1873.		1874.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.
Wheat	177,551	2,898,463 bush.	166,647	2,238,414 bush.	—	—	10,904	660,049 bush.
Maize	116,745	3,984,958 „	116,141	4,120,112 „	—	135,154 bush.	604	—
Barley	3,727	70,708 „	3,559	66,225 „	—	—	168	4,483 bush.
Oats	13,586	270,967 „	16,173	302,600 „	2,587	31,633 bush.	—	—
Rye	1,260	17,671 „	1,234	17,646 „	—	—	26	25 bush.
Millet	281	4,243 „	276	4,372 „	—	129 bush.	5	—
Potatoes	15,123	45,112 tons	14,212	42,281 tons	—	—	911	2,831 tons.
Tobacco	440	2,751 cwt.	199	1,171 cwt.	—	—	241	1,580 cwt.
Arrowroot	38	32,613 lbs.	32	31,430 lbs.	—	—	6	1,183 lbs.
Sorghum and imphee	69	44 tons	96	42 tons	27	—	—	2 tons.
Sugar-cane { Productive	3,470	97,820 cwt.	3,565	14,627 cwt.	95	—	—	83,193 cwt.
Sugar-cane { Unproductive	2,001	—	3,105	—	1,104	—	—	—
Hay	65,832	105,929 tons	70.700	108,944 tons	4,868	3,015 tons	—	—
Vines { For wine-making	2,568	451,450 galls.	3,183	575,985 galls.	615	124,535 galls.	—	—
Vines { For fruit for table use	655	573 tons	551	617 tons	—	44 tons	104	—
Vines { Unproductive	866	—	792	—	—	—	74	—
Gardens and orchards	15,016	—	16,540	—	1,524	—	—	—
Green fodder	32,510	—	36,399	—	3,889	—	—	—
All other	2,892	—	3,418	—	526	—	—	—

The importation of breadstuffs into the Colony during the year 1873 is shown to be of the value of 412,882*l.*, being a decrease of 16,270*l.* on the previous year. The principal market from whence the supply was obtained is from South Australia, to the amount of 345,924*l.*, which is 35,359*l.* in excess of the figures for 1872. There is also an increase from Tasmania to the amount of 9,692*l.* The value of these imports had decreased from New Zealand by 27,942*l.*, and from the United States by 14,586*l.*

The quantity and estimated value of the import of breadstuffs for the last five years, and the quantity and estimated value of the same commodity produced in the Colony, with rate per head of population, is here given.

Table showing the importations of wheat and flour, with estimated value and quantity, and rate per head of the population, for the last five years;—

Year.	Population.	Imports.				Produce of the Colony.				Value of Imports and Produce of the Colony per head of Population.	Exports.			
		Wheat.	Flour and Bread.	Estimated Value.	Value of Imports per head of Population.	Wheat.	Average price per bushel in Sydney.	Estimated Value.	Value of Produce of the Colony per head of Population.		Wheat.	Flour and Bread.	Estimated Value.	Value of Exports per head of Population.
		bush.	tons.	£	£ s. d.	bush.	s. d.	£.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	bush.	tons.	£	s. d.
1869	485,356	782,657	18,470	469,272	0 19 4	3,200,959	6 0	960,287	1 19 6	2 18 10	74,894	6,960	114,799	4 8
1870	502,861	571,278	21,250	411,490	0 16 4	999,595	*5 3	262,393	0 10 5	1 6 9	73,206	6,092	97,644	3 10
1871	519,182	1,043,474	20,796	578,242	1 2 3	2,229,642	5 10	650,311	1 5 0	2 7 3	60,596	4,911	86,685	3 4
1872	539,190	633,285	18,498	429,152	0 15 11	2,898,463	6 0	869,539	1 12 3	2 8 2	152,097	4,293	98,229	3 7
1873	560,275	818,845	17,197	412,882	0 14 8	2,238,414	5 9	643,544	1 2 11	1 17 7	76,969	4,390	82,893	2 11
Average -		769,908	19,242	460,207	0 17 8	2,313,414	5 9	677,215	1 6 0	2 3 8	87,552	5,329	96,050	3 8

* Ranged from 5*s.* to 5*s.* 6*d.*; calculations made on 5*s.* 3*d.*

Vineyards.

There is a marked advance in the culture of the vine during the year 1873. The number of acres so occupied for wine-making purposes, and yielding returns, was 3,183, being an increase of 615 acres on 1872. The production also increased from 451,450 gallons of wine to 575,985 gallons, a difference of 124,535 gallons. Brandy to the extent of 1,916 gallons was also produced.

The area devoted to the cultivation of the vine-producing grapes for table use is 551 acres; the quantity produced is 617 tons. Vines unproductive covered 792 acres. The cultivation of the vine in the Colony, during the year 1873, occupied a general total area of 4,525 acres, as against 4,090 acres in the previous year.

Live Stock.

The returns of live stock are supplemented by a new table, showing the number of each description of stock in each of the police districts.

The general total number of horses, horned cattle, sheep, and pigs, in the Colony on March 31, 1874, amounted to 23,205,320, being an increase on the same date in 1873 of 2,810,300 head. An increase will be found in each class of live stock, except in horses which shows a small decrease. The following comparative tab[illegible]

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will show at a glance the number of each kind of stock at the two periods:—

Year ended 31st March.	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1873 - - - -	328,408	2,287,660	17,560,048	218,904
1874 - - - -	328,014	2,710,374	19,928,590	238,342
Increase - -	—	422,714	2,368,542	19,438
Decrease - - -	394	—	—	—

PART VI.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL.

Coin and Bullion.

The return of coin and bullion shows the total amount in the Mint, Colonial Treasury, and various banks of the Colony, on December 31, 1873, and also gives the average amount of gold and specie held by each of the banks. The amount of gold, bullion, and sovereigns held by the banks was of the value of 2,009,277*l.*, and by the Mint, 99,499*l.*, making a general total of 2,108,776*l.*, which is less than the total of the previous year by 744,271*l.* The general average of the year was 2,103,924*l.*, which is also a decrease on 1872 of 882,475*l.*

Paper Currency in Circulation.

The average paper currency of the several banks of the Colony for the year 1873 amounted in value to 957,800*l.*

The value of notes in circulation on December 31, 1873, was 1,037,984*l.* The excess in the average on the previous year is 168,306*l.*, and in notes in circulation, 90,168*l.*

The return numbered 110 gives the quarterly average assets and liabilities and the capital and profits of the banks of the Colony for the year 1873.

Savings Banks.

The New South Wales Savings Bank return is, as a whole, of a satisfactory character, as the following figures will testify. The total depositors in the Colony, which in 1872 numbered 25,561, increased in 1873 to 27,461. The amount to credit of these depositors was 1,164,561*l.*, being an increase of 135,823*l.* on the previous year. Out of the total number of depositors there were 21,355 on the books of the Bank in Sydney, and 6,106 in country districts. The Sydney depositors had to their credit the sum of 892,908*l.*, and those in the country, 271,653*l.* The average savings of each Sydney depositor comes to 41*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, and of each one in the country to 44*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* The amount to credit of reserve fund stood at 125,300*l.* The balance to credit of depositors in the various branches of the Government Savings Banks on December 31, 1873, amounted to 206,070*l.*, being 125,126*l.* in excess of the figures at the same date in 1872.

The number of accounts open at the close of 1872 was 2,589, and

there were 3,935 accounts opened during 1873. Deducting 1,155 accounts, which were closed in 1873, we have a total of 5,369 open accounts on December 31 of that year, so that the number of accounts was more than doubled during the year 1873.

Branch Royal Mint.

The total value of gold dust or bullion received by the Mint for coinage during the year 1873 amounted to 1,611,941*l.* The decrease in value on the year 1872 is 451,834*l.* The total value of coin and bullion issued by the Mint amounted to 1,528,963*l.*, being 562,765*l.* less than in 1872. The revenue of the Mint is shown to have been 12,387*l.*, as against 17,789*l.* in the previous year. The establishment of a Mint in Melbourne lessened the receipt of gold by the Sydney Mint to the amount of 120,750*l.*, which was the value for 1872, and the following comparative table will show how the balance of the decrease is made up:—

	1872.	1873.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales - -	1,278,127	997,215	—	280,912
Victoria - - - -	120,750	—	—	120,750
New Zealand - - -	184,226	87,792	—	96,434
Queensland - - - -	457,169	517,383	60,214	—
Tasmania - - - -	8,715	760	—	7,955
New Caledonia - - -	8,986	7,099	—	1,887
Coin - - - -	5,801	1,691	—	4,110
Total - - -	2,063,774	1,611,940	60,214	512,048

Railways.

The net revenue derived from the railways in the Colony during the year 1873 was largely in excess of that of the previous year, the amount being 247,550*l.*, showing an increase of 28,698*l.*

The progress in the way of extension is represented by 5 miles. Taking the results of each of our lines of railway, it will be seen that the total earnings of the Southern line, with 134 miles, amounted to 171,252*l.*, and the expenditure for working came to 94,786*l.*, leaving a net balance of 76,466*l.*, which is 10,836*l.* in excess of 1872.

The figures of the passenger traffic show an increase of 5,545*l.*; rents, &c., 823*l.*; and carriage of goods, 14,869*l.* Working expenses increased by 10,400*l.*

The gross amount received on the Western line, with 127 miles of traffic, was 177,703*l.*, and the outlay for working expenses came to 66,732*l.*, which gives a net profit of 110,971*l.* The increase in receipts from passengers was 1,730*l.*; from miscellaneous, 470*l.*; and from freight of goods, 13,918*l.* Working expenses absorbed 12,799*l.* more than in 1872.

The net proceeds of the Richmond line, 16 miles in length, came to 376*l.*, being slightly less than in 1872. The excess of expenditure over earnings was 1,349*l.*

The Northern line, with 124 miles, earned the gross amount of 129,014*l.*, which, after deducting 69,277*l.* for working expenses,

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leaves a net profit of 59,737*l.* Passenger traffic yielded an increase of 5,037*l.*; rents, &c., 173*l.*; and charges for carrying goods, 16,305*l.*

Electric Telegraphs.

The number of stations in the Colony for the transmission of messages was 105, being an increase of 13 on the year 1872. An addition of 407 miles of wire was made during the year, bringing up the total to 6,521 miles, the total cost of which amounts to 218,361*l.* The number of messages transmitted during the year was 363,950, which is 28,128 in excess of the previous year The revenue obtained was 41,132*l.*, as against 45,020*l.* in 1872.

British Australian telegrams increased from 243 in 1872 to 1,410 in 1873, and the amount received on this account was 16,148*l.*, the figures for 1872 being 2,671*l.* Balances on intercolonial and guarranteed business amounted to 4,544*l.* The general total business transacted during the year is 365,360 messages, at a cost of 61,824*l.*

Post-Offices.

At the close of the year 1873 there were 654 Post-Offices established in various parts of the Colony. Thirty-two new offices were opened during the year under review. The number of persons employed in connection with the Post-Offices was 809, as against 761 in 1872. The extent of the postal lines was 15,588 miles, showing an increase of 824 miles.

The total income of the year from the transmission of letters, newspapers, &c., amounted to 109,564*l.* The total expense incurred, including estimated outstanding liabilities for the year, was 96,075*l.*, showing a surplus of 13,489*l.* in favour of income. The amount of business transacted is represented by 9,602,600 letters, 5,258,700 newspapers, and 209,600 packets, all of which totals are largely in excess of 1872, as will be seen on reference to the return. Of the total number of letters transmitted by post, there were 1,374,900 foreign, 7,173,000 inland, and 1,054,700 town. Foreign newspapers numbered 1,333,700, and inland 3,925,000.

Money Orders.

The figures of the money orders returns for 1873 disclose a large increase on those for 1872. There were 92,744 orders issued during the year, representing a money value of 420,294*l.*, the increase in the number being 5,309, and in value 26,412*l.*

Military and Naval.

The amount expended on behalf of the Military service was 65,976*l.* as against 57,432 in 1872. The principal item under this head is 35,134*l.* for construction of fortifications and completion of works of defence. The sum expended on the Naval service is 5,116*l.* —the total for both branches being 71,092*l.*

Municipalities.

At the end of the municipal year in February, 1874, there were 71 municipalities in existence, exclusive of the City of Sydney,

throughout the Colony. The general total estimated annual value of ratable property was 940,191*l.*, the revenue derived from which is stated to amount to 45,880*l.*, to which must be added a sum of 18,962*l.* received as grants from the Government, making a total received of 64,842*l.*

The return shows that there are 25 municipalities which have contracted loans amounting in the aggregate to 22,283*l.* The expenditure on behalf of office expenses and salaries is put down at 12,234*l.*, which being deducted from the annual revenue leaves 52,608*l.* to be expended on roads and streets, payment of interest, &c.

The extent of roads and streets under the control of the municipalities was 1,837 miles.

PART VII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Public Works.

The amount expended on the public works of the Colony, which reached 475,814*l.* in 1872, was increased in 1873 to 597,862, showing an additional outlay of 122,048*l.* The various works on which the total amount was expended are as follows:—

	£
Railways	125,009
Electric Telegraphs	10,956
Roads and Bridges	252,045
Harbours and Rivers	111,160
Public Buildings	98,692
Total	597,862

Meteorology.

The abstracts of meteorological observations taken at the Sydney Observatory during the year 1873 show that the highest mean temperature in the shade was 81·1 and the lowest 49·1. The highest shade temperature was in December, when the thermometer stood at 100·1, and the lowest reading was 38· in the month of July. The total rainfall recorded for the year 1873 is 73·263 inches, being greater by 23·329 inches than the average rainfall of the preceding fourteen years. The greatest quantity of rain in any one day was in February, when it reached 8·900 inches.

Real and Leasehold Estates.

The number of transactions in real and leasehold estates registered during the year 1873 was 6,189, representing a value of 2,352,121*l.* As compared with 1872, there is an increase of 761 in the number of transactions, and of 430,515*l.* in value.

The amount of money lent on mortgage during the year was 711,315*l.*, as against 611,857*l.*, in 1872. Mortgages were discharged to the value of 541,654*l.*; and conveyances under mortgage show a sum of 132,874*l.*

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Liens on Wool and Mortgages on Live Stock.

The number of preferable liens on wool registered during the year 1873 was 377, securing an amount of 472,861*l.* The security comprised 3,195,817 sheep. Comparing these figures with 1872 we find an increase of 479,439 sheep and of 95,829*l.* Live stock mortgages registered during the year number 371, and secured the sum of 1,723,337*l.*; the security comprising 2,383,310 sheep, 128,860 horned cattle, and 3,808 horses. The excess in the fignres over 1872 is as follows:—sheep, 916,290; horned cattle, 14,059; horses, 388. The registered discharges of mortgages on live stock amounted in value to 1,015,863*l.*

Liens on Growing Crops.

The number of registrations of liens on growing crops was 346, and the amount lent was 12,475*l.* The number of these transactions had increased by 65, and the amount secured by 679*l.*

Real Property Act.

The Decennial Return of the number of applications, &c., under the Real Property Act shows that the number of applications received during the year 1873, to bring land under the provisions of this Act, has been gradually diminishing since the year 1865, when the number received was 434; the number for the year under review being 251, which is an excess of 22 on the year 1872. It may be asked why is this decrease in the receipt of applications for certificates of title under an Act which so greatly improves the position of property holders? This being a branch of the department under my supervision I must state that in my opinion many of the public have been prevented from participating in the benefits intended to be conferred by the Real Property Act, by reason of the delay in the examination of titles. 1 trust, however, that the late appointment of a third Examiner of Titles will remove the constant complaints which have been made to me on this subject. The declared value of property comprised in the applications received during the year 1873 amounted to 335,289*l.*, a sum more than double that of the previous year, and larger than any year of the decade. I now come to the fees received during the year 1873 for certificates of title and other dealings under the Real Property Act. The total sum obtained was 4,341*l.*, of which amount 3,236*l.* was paid into Consolidated Revenue Account, and the balance to credit of Commissioners of Title and Assurance Fund.

The increase in the amount of fees paid into the revenue is 371*l.*, which it will be observed is somewhere about the same amount of increase in each year of the decade.

The number of Crown grants registered under the Real Property Act is 3,454, comprising property for which the Government received the sum of 248,792*l.* The total value of land brought under the provisions of this Act during the year by applications and Crown grants amounted to 584,081*l.* The aggregate amount of consideration money expressed in transfers under Act is 441,934*l.*, and the sum secured by mortgage is 751,046*l.*

The total area of land the title to which was under the provisions of the Real Property Act on the 31st December, 1873, is 1,976,445 acres, the total value of which is stated to be 4,680,711*l.* The present value, however, I estimate at a much larger figure. The amount to credit of Assurance Fund on 31st December, 1873, was 10,609*l.*

The total sum received as fees by both of the Registration Branches of this Department, and paid into the Consolidated Revenue Account during the year, for the registration of various transactions in connection with landed estates, &c., under the old system, and under the Real Property Act, amounted to 6,438*l.*, which is only about 250*l.* short of the sum expended in administration.

Insolvencies.

The number of insolvencies during the year 1873 was 426, being 66 fewer than recorded in the previous year, and the lowest number for any one year of the decade. The amount of liabilities disclosed by insolvents' schedules was 301,225*l.*, and the assets are stated to have been 120,136*l.*, showing a deficiency of 181,089*l.* The Court fees in insolvency paid into the Treasury amounted to 1,587*l.*

Miners' Rights and Business Licences.

The number of miners' rights issued at the several gold fields and Colonial Treasury in the year 1873 was 22,956, which is less by 7,673 than in the previous year. There were also 1,350 business licences issued as against 1,723 in 1872. The number of applications for leases of auriferous land was 1,734, showing a large decrease on 1872, when they numbered 5,013.

Publicans' Licences.

The total number of publicans' licences issued throughout the Colony in the year 1873 was 2,471, as against 2,403 in the previous year.

Volunteer Force, Naval Brigade, &c.

The general total number on the roll of the Volunteer corps and companies in 1873 was 4,694 of all grades. The distribution of the Force is as follows:—General Staff, 37; Brigade Band, 39; Artillery and Engineers, 923; Rifles, 2,772; and Cadets, 923. The increase of members over the year 1872 is 508. The expenditure incurred on behalf of this branch of the service was 14,727*l.*, being 4,635*l.* in excess of the previous year. The total strength of the Naval Brigade for the year 1873 was 302, being 50 over the number given in the return for 1872. The cost of maintenance was 4,818*l.*, as against 3,933*l.* in 1872.

Land Sales.

The return of land sold, otherwise than conditionally, shows a very large increase of business in the Lands Department. The total area alienated amounted to 389,200 acres, for which the sum of 409,338*l.* was received, being an average of 1*l.* 1*s.* 0½*d.* per acre. From these figures we find an excess over the year 1872 of 222,367 acres sold,

NEW SOUTH WALES.

and an increase of 232,276*l.* to the land revenue, by far the greater portion of which sum was obtained from the sale of land in the pastoral districts of the Colony.

During the year 1873 there were 13,417 selections of conditional purchases of land, comprising an area of 1,391,719 acres.

The gross amount realized in the year was 440,686*l.*, distributed as follows:—Deposit, 347,930*l.*; balance of purchase money, 38,354*l.*; interest, 54,402*l.* On comparing these amounts with those of 1872, we find a large increase under every head, viz.:—Number of selections, 5,136; area of land, 642,133 acres; deposit money, 160,534*l.*; balance of purchase money, 13,662*l.*; interest, 8,726*l.*; in all, a gross total increase of 182,922*l.*

The grand total amount actually received in the year 1873 from the sale of land, inclusive of conditional purchases and interest on same, amounted to 845,410*l.*, a sum far beyond the receipts of any year in the decade.

I now close this Report, which, taken in its entirety, exhibits most satisfactory results as to the progress of the Colony during the year 1873.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. G. WARD,
Registrar-General.

STATISTICAL VIEW OF THE PROGRESS OF THE COLONY OF NEW SOUTH WALES FROM THE YEAR 1864 TO 1873 INCLUSIVE.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools.		Commitments for Trial.	Convictions.	Mills.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	Number of Acres under Crop.	Live Stock.				Coal raised.		Land Sales.	
					Schools.	Number of Scholars.						Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Amount realized.
																tons.	£	acres.	£
1864	392,589	16,881	3,480	6,445	1,022	48,427	975	590	174	2,084	318,854	284,567	1,924,119	8,271,520	164,154	549,012	270,171	58,216 *165,616	112,719
1865	411,388	17,283	3,578	6,596	1,069	53,453	1,123	686	175	2,132	378,254½	282,587	1,961,905	8,132,511	146,901	585,525	274,303	101,350 *151,450	213,241
1866	431,412	16,950	3,462	7,361	1,155	59,594	1,255	770	159	2,389	451,225¼	278,437	1,771,809	11,562,155	137,915	774,238	324,049	109,177 *358,652	261,590
1867	447,620	18,317	3,426	8,631	1,180	63,183	1,180	702	188	2,274	413,164	280,201	1,728,427	13,909,574	173,168	770,012	342,655	119,044 *232,176	264,660
1868	466,765	18,485	3,736	7,225	1,254	66,835	1,006	601	181	3,562	434,756¼	280,818	1,761,411	15,080,625	176,901	954,231	417,809	149,945 *239,516	265,250
1869	485,356	19,243	3,799	6,691	1,304	71,523	1,112	682	183	4,497	482,324½	280,304	1,795,904	14,989,923	175,924	919,774	346,146	164,890 *397,328	319,613
1870	502,861	19,648	3,848	6,558	1,381	74,503	1,037	601	187	6,862	426,976	337,597	2,195,096	16,308,585	243,066	868,564	316,836	94,373 *329,318	250,843
1871	†519,182	20,143	3,953	6,407	1,450	77,889	1,084	628	190	6,827	417,801	304,100	2,014,888	16,278,697	213,193	898,784	316,340	88,637 *358,682	261,401
1872	539,190	20,250	3,925	7,468	1,464	106,691	1,073	643	188	7,769	454,634	328,408	2,287,660	17,560,048	218,904	1,012,426	396,198	166,834 *749,586	432,373
1873	560,275	21,444	4,384	7,611	1,508	110,287	1,166	647	182	8,275	456,825	328,014	2,710,374	19,928,590	238,342	1,192,862	665,747	389,200 *1,391,719	845,410

Year.	Shipping.				Exports, the Produce of the Colony.‡									Value of Total Imports.‡	Value of Total Exports.‡	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Wool.		Tallow.		Oil, &c. Value.	Gold.§		Coal.				General.	Loans.	Ordinary.	Loans.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.						
					lbs.	£	cwt.	£	£	oz.	£	tons.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1864	1,849	607,168	1,842	617,057	25,827,917‖	2,294,615‖	61,056	100,654	—	758,109	2,952,471	372,466	212,488	10,135,708‖	9,037,832‖	1,693,792¶	290,983	1,862,245	464,656
1865	1,912	635,888	2,120	690,294	29,858,791‖	2,283,560‖	75,810	122,270	—	682,521	2,647,668	382,968	214,158	10,635,507‖	9,563,818‖	1,938,656**	298,578	1,760,516**	554,278
1866	2,099	730,354	2,259	784,381	36,980,685‖	2,830,348‖	27,726	51,826	285	751,700	2,924,891	540,905	300,588	9,403,192‖	9,913,839‖	2,833,459**	419,720	2,125,414**	887,157
1867	1,868	646,970	2,104	726,721	21,708,902	1,711,322	37,211	63,648	369	660,619	2,586,044	473,357	253,259	6,599,804	6,880,715	2,034,490**	534,966	2,249,521**	686,112
1868	2,073	724,193	2,218	776,449	25,721,632	1,879,751	93,901	144,377	630	487,600	1,895,929	548,036	292,201	8,051,377	7,192,904	2,476,700**	1,617,112	2,646,303**	640,536
1869	2,022	741,369	2,236	833,248	51,269,672‖	3,162,522‖	96,667	167,536	4,515	641,069	2,489,145	595,553	298,195	8,392,753‖	9,933,442	2,590,217**	1,073,292	2,649,329**	616,476
1870	1,858	689,820	2,066	771,942	47,440,610‖	2,741,141‖	134,262	223,787	3,674	410,547	1,585,736	578,389	267,681	7,757,281‖	7,990,038‖	2,490,203**	85,106	2,638,264**	660,089
1871	1,891	706,019	2,123	794,460	65,611,953‖	4,748,160‖	150,452	245,727	1,275	535,492	2,074,937	565,429	256,690	9,609,508‖	11,245,032‖	2,908,153††	1,380,709	3,006,576††	595,923
1872	2,011	774,490	2,091	813,550	50,233,453‖	3,342,900‖	105,233	176,798	401	543,197	2,110,299	669,110	307,861	9,208,496‖	10,447,049‖	3,592,979††	568,436	2,986,186††	652,437
1873	2,161	874,804	2,212	887,674	31,606,846	2,201,910	66,504	106,138	1,977	665,676	2,590,145	773,079	526,089	10,471,483	9,387,873	3,937,410††	217,270	2,333,166††	427,286

* Lands conditionally sold under the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861." Price of Land in 1825, 7*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* per acre. The minimum price of land was 5*s.* per acre from 1832 to 1840; 12*s.* per acre, 1840–2. (20*s.* in Port Philip, in 1841.) 20*s.* per acre from 1843 to present time. In 1822, 3, 4, 5, the accounts were kept in Spanish dollars and British money; generally in Spanish dollars. Transportation ceased in 1840. The Return of the Revenue and Expenditure previous to 1850 cannot be accurately ascertained. In addition to the above expenditure, the Imperial Government paid large sums for the maintenance of convicts and military. Gold discovered in May, 1851. The Loans Expenditure previous to 1853 cannot be shown.

† The Census was taken on 7th April, 1861, population 350,860.
‡ Exclusive of the overland traffic.
§ Includes the gold received at the Mint from other Colonies, and converted into bars and coin.
‖ Inclusive of the overland traffic.
¶ Includes 270,543*l.* proceeds of Treasury Bills, issued under the Act of Council 27th Vict., No. 8, to cover deficit of 1863 and previous years.
** The Revenue and Expenditure columns include "Church and School Lands Revenue," "Police Reward Fund," "Police Superannuation Fund," and "Superannuation Fund," 27th Vict., No. 11.
†† Includes Trust Fund, Treasury Bills, &c.

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No. 16.

No. 16.

Governor Du Cane to The Earl of Carnarvon.

Government House, Tasmania,
August 7, 1874.

My Lord,

I have the honour to forward to your Lordship four copies of the Statistics of Tasmania for the year 1873.

2. These Statistics have been collected and arranged by Mr. E. C. Nowell, and are accompanied by his usual able and elaborate introductory Report.

3. I have nothing to add to that Report, save to endorse the views expressed by Mr. Nowell as to the reviving prosperity of the Colony. In the present position of Tasmania, and the signs of energy and enterprise which are once more beginning to manifest themselves, there is, as he justly observes, more matter for congratulation than has appeared for many years past. I can only trust that this return to a brighter state of things may be rendered permanent by a judicious and intelligent development of those great natural resources which, without doubt, exist in the country, and ought to secure for it a higher position than it has hitherto held in the Australasian group of Colonies.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) Charles Du Cane.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 16.

To the Hon. The Colonial Secretary.

Legislative Council Office, Hobart Town,
July 16, 1874.

Sir,

I have again, in the discharge of my duty as Government Statistician, to forward to you the Annual Statistics of this Colony; the present volume containing those of 1873.

Assimilation and comparison of Statistics.

Before proceeding to summarize the results of the returns forming this volume, it seems to me that some reference is demanded to the Resolution of the Representatives of the different Colonies adopted at their meeting at Sydney held in the early part of 1873. That Resolution was to the effect, that "With a view to facilitate comparison "between the official Statistics of all the various Australasian Colonies, "it was resolved by the Conference that it is expedient to have all such "Statistics framed, as far as possible, upon a uniform system; and "that the Governments of Victoria and New South Wales be requested "to prepare a plan and submit a draft thereof to the several

"Governments for consideration." The Governments of these two Colonies are, I understand, still engaged in considering this question; and beyond communicating with the Registrar-General of Victoria, both personally, on occasion of his paying a visit to this Colony at a later period of the year, and by letter in reference to the form of Criminal Statistics suggested in a Despatch from the Right Hon. the Secretary of State, but little could be done towards making any alteration in the form of the returns for the past year.

As to the desirability of establishing such a uniform system, if it were possible, there can be no question, and every one who has ever attempted to compare the condition in any respect of one country with that of another, must have had practical reasons for admitting it; but I do not believe that it is possible, to any great extent, so to assimilate the Statistics of different countries as to make comparison always safe and easy. For to institute such a comparison, the conditions must be precisely similar, since any difference in the circumstances of either country must vitiate the result. For instance, it is a very common thing to make, or attempt to make, comparisons between the taxation of different countries; and it is frequently assumed that if one, A, pays 10*l.* per head in import duty, and another, B, only 5*l.*, A is taxed twice as heavily as B. But there is no greater fallacy than this, as may easily be demonstrated. If exactly the same number of articles are subject to import duties, and the rates of duty are exactly the same in both countries, then it is clear that the one spends twice as much in the purchase of such articles as the other; and it is a fair assumption, since the expenditure is purely voluntary, that A does so because he is twice as wealthy as B. But if we find that A is charged 50 per cent. more per lb. for its tea and sugar, and 50 per cent. more per gallon for its wine, beer, and spirits, and in the same proportion for all other things coming through the Customs, then, and only then, is A taxed more heavily to such extent than B. Thus the rate per head of total Customs duties is no safe ground of comparison as to the burden of taxation, unless taken in connection with the rate of duty on each article. So again, it is utterly misleading to compare the amount paid to the general Government in different countries as a criterion without taking into account the local burdens also. What is borne as a compulsory tax in one country may be paid as a local and voluntary rate in another. For instance, much of that which is raised as a poor rate in England, and disbursed by the districts, in Tasmania is borne by the general Government. If therefore we were to compare the figures for the two countries, without giving due weight to this fact, we should be making a wrong use of them. To take another example: suppose it were desired to compare the public expenditure in Tasmania with that of some other country, say New South Wales. If we were merely to contrast the rate per head in each case, our deductions would be fallacious, because the system of Government is not the same in both cases. The Police and Roads, for example, are maintained in New South Wales at the cost of the Colony, while in Tasmania, where there are Municipalities, the Police are under their charge and maintained at their expense, but in districts where the people have not taken upon themselves the responsibilities of self-government, they are chargeable to the public purse. But the

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Municipalities, which might naturally be supposed to bear the whole cost, do not do so, since the State contributes a certain sum in proportion to that which is raised for police purposes by the districts themselves. In Tasmania, the roads also are maintained (with the exception of the main road) from local funds, subsidized by the State. Now any one who desired to compare the expenditure either for governmental or local purposes between any two countries so dissimilarly situated in this respect, ought to be aware of all the circumstances, and to admit them as elements in his calculations. It is impossible, therefore, so to frame Statistics as to prevent the danger of making false comparisons. Take again the Criminal Statistics: A larger number of executions in one country than in another may be attributable, not to a more depraved condition of the population, but to greater severity in the law, since the same offence may be capital in one place and not so in another; and an excess in the number of apprehensions or convictions may indicate, not so much a greater proclivity to crime, as greater efficiency in detecting and punishing it. Nothing less than a special and minute examination of all the circumstances and conditions bearing upon each case can ensure the accuracy of the result. The more experience we acquire in the matter, the more strongly do we feel that Comparative Statistics are a science in themselves; and that to deal with them in a trustworthy manner, requires all the exact accuracy observed in philosophical investigation, in order to eliminate every source of error.

In regard to Population, there are not many discrepant elements, and comparison is tolerably safe. But when we come to the department of Vital Statistics, the first difficulties recur. Thus in regard to Births, there are two special sources of danger to the investigator—First, from births of still-born children; secondly, from defects of registration. Births of the class just mentioned are differently treated in various countries. The returns generally include only "Living "Births;" while by the last Report of the Registrar-General of New Zealand for 1872, I find that the practice is there to include among the Births those of still-born infants, and, at the same time to register them as Deaths; "thus making," as the Registrar-General says, "the Birth and Death rate to the Population higher than it would "have been if the practice adopted in other Colonies had prevailed "here."

For comparative purposes it is not sufficient, therefore, that the *form* in which the Statistics of different countries are published should be the same: the *principles* on which they are based should also be the same. As long as there are differences in laws, institutions, fiscal systems, habits, productions, such perfect uniformity cannot be obtained; but by united action, such approaches may be made to it as circumstances may admit.

Proceeding now to the subject of the Tables which accompany this Report, we have to deal with

I.—*Population.*

Population.

This was estimated to have been on the 31st December last—Males, 55,368; Females, 48,849; together, 104,217, or 1,292 more

than at the end of the previous year, the increase being at the rate of 1·25 per cent. For the last three years the increase has been—

	Per cent. of Population at the beginning of the Year.
1873	1·25
1872	1·12
1871	1·01

The centesimal rate of increase by excess of Births over Deaths in those years was—

	Per cent. of Population at the beginning of the Year.
In 1873	1·50
„ 1872	1·57
„ 1871	1·68

The centesimal loss from movement of Population was—

	Per cent. of Population at the beginning of the Year.
In 1873	0·24
„ 1872	0·45
„ 1871	0·67

the actual excess of Departures over Arrivals being—In 1873, 252; in 1872, 462; in 1871, 678.

While, therefore, the gain to the Population by Births is diminishing, the loss by Emigration is also diminishing, and to a slightly greater extent; for while in 1872, as compared with 1871, the falling off in increase from Births was 0·11 per cent., and in 1873 as compared with 1872, only 0·07; the comparative loss by Emigration fell from 0·22 to 0·21 per cent.; that is, the loss was checked by so much.

Immigration and Emigration.

As to the movements of the people, the Return of Immigration and Emigration now furnished affords more information than did the returns of former years. It shows that an aggregate of 6,787 persons arrived in the Colony during 1873, and that 7,039 departed from it, the excess of 252 (already referred to) being on the side of the departures. Distinguished in regard to sexes, it appears that 4,926 males arrived, and 4,591 departed, leaving a gain to the population of 335; and that the number of females was—arrived, 1,861; departed, 2,448, leaving a loss to population of 587.

A very large majority of the numbers which appear in this Return is found under the head of Victoria. The largest number of arrivals, after those from Victoria, was from the United Kingdom; then follow New South Wales and New Zealand. Of departures, the greatest number after Victoria was to New South Wales; then, *longo intervallo*, comes New Zealand, the remaining countries taking but a very insignificant proportion.

Bounty Immigration.

The number of assisted Bounty Immigrants who arrived in the year was only 28.

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II.—*Trade, Commerce, and Navigation.*

Imports.

The value of the Imports in 1873 is returned as 1,107,167*l.*, being greater by 299,985*l.*, or 27·09 per cent., than in 1872.

The total Imports and rate per head for the last five years was—

Years.	Total Value.	Rate per head.
	£	£ s. d.
1873 - - -	1,107,167	10 12 5½
1872 - - - -	807,182	7 16 10½
1871 - - -	778,087	7 12 6½
1870 - - - -	792,916	7 17 4½
1869 - - -	975,412*	9 12 0¼

Comparing the Imports from the different countries in 1873 and 1872, we find the following increases on the latter year:—

	£
From United Kingdom - - - -	120,156
„ Victoria - - - - - -	136,787†
„ Queensland - - - - -	5,267
„ South Australia - - - - -	4,215‡
„ New Zealand - - - - -	545
„ Mauritius - - - - - -	43,877
„ South Seas - - - - -	4,035

On those from New South Wales there was a decrease of 14,717*l.* But in the amount for 1872 was included Coin of the value of 20,000*l.* Deducting this, there would be an increase upon the ordinary articles of about 5,000*l.*

The value of Imports has not been so large in any previous year since 1859.

Exports.

The total value of Exports in 1873 was 893,556*l.* being a decrease of 17,107*l.* or 1·88 per cent. upon the value in 1872, which was 910,663*l.*

The total value and rate per head for the past five years are shown below:—

Years.	Total Value.	Rate per head.
	£	£ s. d.
1873 - - -	893,556	8 11 5¾
1872 - - - -	910,663	8 16 11½
1871 - - -	740,638	7 5 6¼
1870 - - - -	648,709	6 8 9
1869 - - -	826,932	8 2 9½

It appears from these figures that the rate, though lower than in the previous year, was higher than in any of the other four years of the period.

The decrease occurred in the trade with the United Kingdom and Victoria; the former being 84,625*l.*, and the latter 2,660*l.* less than in 1872. The trade with Guam also showed a reduction of 165*l.*

* Including Railway Plant, 88,045*l.* † In 1872, Coin, 20,000*l.* was imported.
‡ In 1872, no Imports.

On the Exports to the other Countries there was an increase, as follows:—

	£
New South Wales - - - - -	32,651
Queensland - - - - - - -	10,299
South Australia - - - - - -	6,641
New Zealand - - - - - -	16,537

A small trade seems to have been opened up during the year with New Caledonia, Batavia, and New Guinea.

The decrease occurred on Bark, Bran, Gold (746*l.*), Hides, Skins and Leather (5,759*l.*), and Wool—the deficiency in the last article being 120,065*l.*, which is attributable to the unusually large shipments in 1872, making the comparison with an average year unfavourable for the latter. In the values of most of the other articles exported there was a considerable increase. On Flour it was 4,535*l.*; on Fruit and Jam, 19,556*l.*; on Wheat, 16,838*l.*; on Oats, 26,794*l.*; on Barley, 751*l.*; on Hops, 1,871*l.*; on Horses, 8,889*l.*; on Sheep, 47*l.*; on Oatmeal, 2,146*l.*; on Oil, Whale, 645*l.*; on Timber, 16,632*l.*; and on Vegetables, 1,357*l.*

There was a considerable increase in 1873 in the Exports of most of our staple articles of produce. Thus, the quantity of Jam was 2,263,266 lbs., being 614,425 lbs. more than in 1872, and 773,326 lbs. more than in 1870. The export of Wheat (253,256 bushels) was the largest in the ten years; that of Oats (448,456 bushels), the largest, with the exception of 1865. The supply of Hops to transmarine markets still advances. The shipments in 1873 amounted to 826,783 lbs., against 697,402 lbs. in 1872, and 72,681 lbs. in 1864; thus in the ten years the quantity had multiplied itself more than eleven times. The export of Gold in 1873 was 3,920 oz., which was somewhat less than in 1872, but larger than in the two previous years. The trade in Sheep for breeding purposes is also reviving. The number of Sheep thus supplied to the other Colonies in 1864 was 1,773; in 1865, 3,537; in 1868, only 1,009, rising to 2,890 next year. In 1870 it fell at once to 907; slightly increasiug in 1871 to 998, whence, *per saltum*, it rose to 2,433 in the following year; and in 1873 stood at 2,586. If therefore the last number was not as large as the numbers in some previous years, it shows that the trade is becoming more brisk, and will probably soon be larger than ever before.

In the present returns of Exports of home produce I have included Oatmeal, 218 tons of which were shipped in 1873. The trade in this article seems steadily increasing. In 1864 the quantity exported was but 7 tons. In 1871 it was 148 tons, and in 1872, 140 tons.

In the Timber exported in 1873 there was also a large increase. The number of Palings was the greatest in the ten years, and that of Laths and Shingles was exceeded only during that period in 1864 and 1866, and was more than twice as great as it was in 1867, 1869, 1870, and 1872. The quantity of sawn and hewn Timber was also exceeded only in 1864 and 1871.

The quantity of Wool exported was only 4,243,433 lbs. against 5,998,527 lbs. in the year before. It is impossible to judge of the

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actual quantity produced in any one year by the exports in that year, inasmuch as part of the clip, more or less, goes with that of the following year. Taking the average of the last three years (the Scab Act having come into operation in 1870), the quantity was 5,065,560 lbs., and in the three years 1867–9, it was 5,476,578 lbs., or 411,018 lbs. more. This decrease was caused by a diminution in the number of Sheep. In the three years from 1866 (December) to 1869 (March) the average number was 1,727,112: in the three years 1871–3, it was only 1,350,206. In the former period the average weight of fleece would be 3·17 lbs.; in the latter 3·75 lbs., so that there has been an increase of rather more than half a pound per fleece.

Shipping.

The returns of Shipping show a considerable increase throughout. The total number of ships entered inwards was 661, with a tonnage of 118,353, manned by 7,509 hands. The number outwards was 681, the tonnage of which was 119,759, the crews numbering 7,697. An attempt seems to have been made during the year to extend our foreign trade, one vessel having been despatched to New Guinea, one to Batavia, four vessels to Guam, and three to New Caledonia.

The out-ports show a decrease in the amount of shipping inwards and outwards, except Leith. Torquay has an increase of 9 in the number cleared, but a decrease of 3 in the number entered.

The total of shipping both ways was—number, 1,342; tonnage, 238,112; crews, 15,206. Comparing these numbers with those for the previous year we find the increase per cent. was—on the number of vessels, 12·87; on the tonnage, 15·88.

On the number of ships on the registers on 31st December, 1873, there was an increase of 1, and on the tonnage, of 863.

Whale Fisheries.

The number of vessels engaged in the Whale Fisheries in 1873 was 18, being one less than in 1872, the decrease in tonnage being 152, and in the crews 44.

While, however, only 12 of these vessels were returned as actually employed in Whaling in 1872, the whole 18 were employed in 1873. The produce in the latter year was, Black Oil, 12½ tuns, or 1 tun less than in 1872; Sperm Oil, 558 tuns, or 219 more; the value of both being 44,000*l*., or 16,580*l*. in excess of that for 1872.

Coal Mining.

The return of Coal raised in 1873 shows an increase at every place except Tasman's Peninsula. The total quantity was 10,147 tons, against 8,141 in 1872, the increase being at the rate of 24·64 per cent. I have omitted the prices and value for 1873, as there is considerable difficulty in ascertaining the true value.

Prices.

The prices of some articles at Hobart Town such as Coals, Firewood, Oats, Maize, Straw, Timber, were dearer than in 1872; while Malt Liquors, Vegetables, and a few other articles, were cheaper.

A comparison of the contract prices shows that Barley (Pearl), Butcher's Meat, Butter (Potted), Coffee, Candles (Tallow), Rice, Sugar, Wine (Port), were dearer; while there was a decrease on Bread, Currants, and Flour.

Wages.

Wages are generally reported to have been higher and labour more scarce in 1873, in consequence of the works on the Main Line of Railway. This, as will be noticed in connection with the agricultural returns, had an unfavourable effect on cultivation.

The same cause, probably, combined with a brisk emigration to the

other Colonies, diminished the number of many of the manufactories and other industries in operation. I notice that, while the Publicans are returned as two less, there appears one Brewery more, at Oatlands, and an addition of three to the Maltsters.

Trades and Manufactures.

III.—*Finance, &c.*

The Revenue and Expenditure for the last two years, made up to the 31st March of the current year, are shown in the subjoined Statement of the Assistant Colonial Treasurer:—

Revenue and Expenditure

GENERAL REVENUE, EXCLUSIVE OF DEBENTURES AND EXPENDITURE UNDER LOANS ACTS.

	1872.			1873.		
REVENUE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs and Bonding Rents	138,232	1	9	169,762	19	1
Inland Revenue	53,993	16	2	70,567	5	7
Other Receipts	43,396	16	9	38,305	4	0
Estimated Receipts outstanding	—			4,824	17	0
	235,622	14	8	283,460	5	8
EXPENDITURE.						
Ordinary Expenditure	238,634	8	3	246,663	2	10
Estimated Expenditure outstanding	—			2,000	0	0
	238,634	8	3	248,663	2	10

LAND FUND, EXCLUSIVE OF DEBENTURES AND EXPENDITURE UNDER LOANS ACTS.

	1872.			1873.		
REVENUE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Territorial Revenue	36,371	7	1	37,285	3	10
Other Receipts	—			8	14	0
	36,371	7	1	37,293	17	10
EXPENDITURE.						
Ordinary Expenditure	43,781	18	7	42,468	9	7
Reserve under Waste Lands Act	8,417	14	9	8,763	11	7
Estimated Expenditure outstanding	—			100	0	0
	52,199	13	4	51,332	1	2

WM. H. WINDSOR, Assistant Colonial Treasurer.
Colonial Treasury, 30th May, 1874.

The total revenue from all sources in 1873 was 48,760*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* in excess of that received in the previous year. The increase on Customs duties and Bonding Rents was (omitting fractions) 31,531*l.*; on Inland Revenue, 16,573. There was a small increase on the Land Revenue.

The proportion of Revenue contributed by the Customs was 59·27 per cent.

The total expenditure in 1873 (estimating outstanding liabilities) was 299,995*l.*, or 10,993*l.* in excess of that in 1872.

The amount expended by the Imperial Government in 1873 was 36,567*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, being 1,222*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* greater than in the year before.

Imperial Expenditure.

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Exchange.

The Bank rate of Exchange with London was generally higher in 1873 than in the preceding year,—that is, the discount fixed by the Banks on the purchase of mercantile bills was less, and the premium charged on their own bills greater. During the first three months of 1873 the discount on the former was ½ per cent., and for the rest of the year ¼; while in 1872, for the first six months it was ¼, and for the remainder of the year ½ per cent. Similarly, while in 1873 the premium on Bank bills for the first seven months and the last month was ¾, and for the remaining months 1 per cent., in 1872 it was ¾ for the first six months and the last month, and only half for the remaining five months.

The Exchange with the Colonies continued the same as in the previous year.

In the rates of Discount, the only change was a reduction of 1 per cent.—from 10 to 9—on bills exceeding 125 days, in the early part of August.

Banks.

The Bank returns, as will be seen from the subjoined synopsis, show a considerable increase of business in the past year. The totals include minor sums which are not of sufficient importance to have separate columns assigned to them.

Years.	Average Assets.			Average Liabilities.		
	Specie and Bullion.	Notes, Bills of Exchange, and other Debts due.	Total Assets.	Notes in Circulation.	Deposits.	Total Liabilities.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1873 - -	249,030	930,689	1,278,500	97,079	857,524	960,917
1872 - -	179,969	942,813	1,196,410	78,376	719,375	808,567

The increase on Specie and Bullion was at the rate of 38·37 per cent.; on Notes in circulation, 23·86 per cent.; and on Deposits, 19·20 per cent.

Savings Banks.

A similar increase is observable in the business of the Savings Banks, as will be seen from the following comparison:—

Years.	Average Assets.				Average Liabilities.	Total.	
	In Mortgages.	In Debentures.	Cash in other Banks.	Total Assets.	Deposits.	Deposits during Year.	Repayments during Year.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1873 -	133,522	89,292	46,081	274,442	244,927	140,906	115,409
1872 -	135,930	88,704	23,778	254,230	226,822	121,059	109,095

The amount invested in Mortgages and Debentures in 1873 was about 1,800*l.* less, while the cash deposited in other banks was 22,303*l.* more. This effect is plainly traceable to the following causes:—1. The improved condition of the landowners, enabling them to reduce the incumbrances on their properties; 2. The lowering of the rate of interest on Government loans from 6 to 5 per cent.; and 3. The high premium on Debentures.

To the present return of Savings Banks has been added a statement (compiled from information obligingly furnished to me by the respective Actuaries) showing the number of accounts (not including interest only) open at the end of each half year. From this statement

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it appears that the Banks had on 28th February, 8,937 customers; on 31st August, 9,256; and that while in the first half of the year the number of accounts opened exceeded the number closed by 287, in the second half the excess was 319.

The amount of money deposited in the Savings Banks during the year exceeded that in the previous year by 19,847*l.* or 16·39 per cent., while the repayments showed an excess of 6,314*l.*, or only 5·79 per cent.

Taking the aggregate deposits in all the other banks in 1873, the amount per head of population at the end of the year is found to have been 10*l.* 11*s.* 6¾*d.* The true sum would be somewhat less than this, since a part of the funds of the Savings Banks were deposited in the ordinary banks. In New South Wales the total amount of deposits in 1872 was 17*l.* 0*s.* 6¼*d.* per head.

Post Office Money Orders.

The number of Post Office Money Orders issued in 1873 was 6,572, the amount (omitting fractions) 24,193*l.*; the number paid was 5,534, the amount 21,108*l.* On the number issued there was an increase of 752; and on the amount, an increase of 3,022*l.*

Public Debt.

The Public Debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1873, was 1,477,600*l.* (deducting Debentures authorized but not issued 37,800*l.*), the rate per head of population being 14*l.* 3*s.* 6¾*d.*

Gold Mining.

Closely connected with the subject of the public finances, is that of Gold Mining, which supplies the principal representative of value. This is the next point, therefore, to be considered. The total quantity of Gold produced in 1873 (so far as it could be ascertained) was 4,361 oz., valued at 18,390*l.* On comparing the returns for that and the previous years, we find a large decrease in the number of men employed in alluvial mining, and in the yield of gold therefrom. In quartz mining also there was a decrease of 120 in the number of persons employed, and of about 1,800 tons in the quantity of stone crushed; but it is an encouraging feature, that notwithstanding the amount of gold obtained from the stampers was 43 oz. less, the value is returned as 155*l.* more, the average for the Black Boy gold having risen from 3*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* to 3*l.* 19*s.* per oz. But not only has the metal become finer in quality as the depths at which it is worked have increased, but the quartz, as is generally the case, has become richer, the produce per ton at the Black Boy in 1873 being 7 grains in excess of that in 1872—14 dwts. 17 grs. as against 14 dwts. 10 grs.

The alluvial gold fields hitherto worked were of small extent, and were therefore soon exhausted; but there is a considerable quantity of land on private property which, sooner or later, will probably afford occupation for a more numerous mining population. But however this may be, since the commencement of the present year, the large yields from the quartz crushed at the Nine Mile Springs have given a great impetus to mining at that place, and there seems reason to believe that when a sufficient depth has been reached permanent reefs will be found—if they have not already been found—and of a highly remunerative quality.

The Reports which the Gold Commissioners have furnished me contain much valuable and interesting matter, and will be printed as an Appendix to this volume. I shall content myself with giving prominence here to some of the facts which I have gathered from them.

In regard to the operations at Mathinna (or Black Boy) in the

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Fingal district, it is remarked that the mining community there has now a greater appearence of permanence than at any former time.

The Commissioner has tabulated the yields of the different Quartz Companies and proprietories during the year. I find that from one reef 98½ tons of stone gave an average of 1 oz. 12 dwts. 11 grs. to the ton. The "City of Hobart," now a well-established Company, from 1,590 tons, obtained an average of 1 oz. 2 dwts. 8 grs. per ton. The "Derby" Company from 2,116 tons, obtained an average of 9 dwts. 14 grs.; other smaller parcels of stone gave averages of 18 dwts. 13 grs., and 10 dwts. 3 grs. The deepest workings are those of the "City of Hobart" Company, and these do not yet reach, as I understand, much below 250 feet. Experience has shown, so far, that the reef of this Company conforms to the general law, by improving as it descends.

The Commissioner remarks that at Mathinna the figures show, as regards Quartz Mining, an increase under every head in 1873 as compared with 1872.

Writing at a later date, with reference to the George Town and Waterhouse Gold Fields, which had but lately been included in his district, he reports that but little work had been done during the year 1873. Since the beginning of the present year, however, a parcel of about 70 tons of stone at Nine Mile Springs gave an average yield of nearly 8 oz. of gold to the ton, the gold being of excellent quality. This success has recalled attention to the locality, and the returns therefrom for this year will probably far exceed those of last year.

The Commissioner at the Hellyer gold fields points out the causes which he believes to have led to failure there; and confidently asserts his conviction that gold exists at the Hellyer in considerable quantities. "Upwards of 300 oz.," he adds, "were last summer obtained "from the River Hellyer. Several nuggets have been found, varying "from 5 dwts. up to 1 oz. 3 dwts.; but on the whole, the gold is scaly "and waterworn."

IV.—*Establishments, &c., maintained or assisted by Government.*

Post Office.

The Post Office is one of the most important institutions of a country; and its records afford much valuable information as to social and commercial questions. A comparison of the postal returns now before us for the years 1872 and 1873 shows that the Colony was making fair progress. The following Table will exhibit the result in the clearest light:—

		No. of Letters, &c.		No. per head of Population.	
		Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters	1873	1,072,377	1,171,201	10·29	11·24
	1872	990,187	1,032,553	9·62	10·03
Packets	1873	35,818	30,932	0·34	0·30
	1872	31,393	25,692	0·30	0·25
Newspapers	1873	668,563	986,167	6·41	9·46
	1872	642,104	856,611	6·24	8·32

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The public convenience was promoted by the establishment in 1873 of eight additional Post Offices, extending the post roads by 60 miles.

The estimated revenue of the Post Office in 1873 was 11,500*l.*, or 1,700*l.* more than in 1872; the expenditure was 16,792*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*, or 2,270*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* in excess.

Electric Telegraph.

The number of Messages sent by the Electric Telegraph within the Colony in 1873 was 29,507, or 21·65 per cent. in excess of the number in 1872; the number of Messages by the Submarine Cable was 9,774, or 30·09 per cent. in excess.

Launceston and Western Railway.

The Return of the working of the Launceston and Western Railway also shows a favourable result. The number of passengers conveyed increased by 19,276, or 30·29 per cent.; the tonnage of goods by 7172, or 39·60 per cent.; the total revenue by 3,457, or 25·35 per cent.; while the Expenditure was reduced from 13,786*l.* 9*s.* to 13,651*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*. There was thus a profit over and above the working expenses in 1873 of 3,441*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*

Marine Boards.

The receipts of the Marine Boards were also in excess of those of the previous year by 3,179*l.* 5*s.* The Light-houses, which are under the charge of the Marine Board at Hobart Town, produced a larger revenue by 392*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*

Salmon Breeding Establishment.

I refer to the next Return—that of the Expenditure of the Salmon and Trout Breeding Establishment—only for the purpose of showing the result of its operations during the year. With this view the following statement has been furnished by the Secretary to the Salmon Commissioners:—

RETURN *showing the distribution of* OVA *and* FRY *from the* BREEDING PONDS, RIVER PLENTY, *during the Year ending* 31*st December*, 1873.

OVA.

Salmon Trout—Launceston		300
	New Zealand	300
	Victoria	200
Brown Trout—New South Wales		250
	Hobart Town	100
	Victoria	2,300
	New Zealand	600
	Total Ova	4,050

FRY.

Brown Trout—Hobart Town*	500
Ditto*	700
River Styx	100
River Plenty	200
Total Fry	1,500

* For distribution in the Rivers south of Hobart Town, and on the East Coast.

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During the year 120 Licences to fish for Trout were issued, producing a revenue of 80*l.* 15*s.*, and a sum of 30*l.* was paid into the Treasury for sale of Ova to New South Wales.

Since the year 1868, there have been distributed by the Commissioners for the purpose of stocking the rivers of this and the Australian Colonies and New Zealand, 32,800 ova of the Brown Trout, 2,850 ova of the Salmon Trout; 32,049 fry of the former, and 1,621 fry of the latter. Many of the rivers of Tasmania are now swarming with these fish, which, in a few years, ought to produce a considerable addition to the public revenues.

Penal and Charitable Institutions.

The gross cost of the Penal and Charitable Establishments in 1873 (including grants to Institutions under private management) was 53,048*l.* The amount received in diminution of the expenditure was 6,714*l.*, or 13·29 per cent. of the cost of the Establishments wholly maintained by the Government. This sum does not include produce consumed by, or services performed for, the inmates themselves.

Of the net cost of these Establishments, 36,713*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* was chargeable to the Colony, and 9,620*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* to the Imperial Government. In addition to this charge on the Colonial funds, a sum of 8,812*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* was expended in relief of out-door paupers.

The average number of inmates throughout the year was—Offenders under punishment and their children, 668, of whom 72·6 per cent. had been Imperial convicts; Paupers, 1,265, of whom 60·9 per cent. had been of that class; and 388 Insane and Idiots, of whom the proportion was 56·9 per cent. In the whole, there were 55 of these burdens on the State fewer than in 1872.

As compared with that year, there was also a decrease of cost on these Establishments to the Imperial Government of 801*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*, and to the Colony of 2,148*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*

Road Trusts.

The Road Trusts seem to have participated in the general improvement. The extent of roads brought under their control was increased by 90 miles; their revenue (2,005*l.* being from Rates, Tolls, &c.) by 2,869*l.* Their expenditure, however, was less than in 1872 by 1,075*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*

Municipalities.

The Municipalities of Hobart Town and Launceston appear to have been in a somewhat more flourishing condition than in the previous year, since the assessed value of property and the amount of revenue were greater. Putting the Government grant out of the question, the same may be said of the Rural Municipalities.

From these Returns we gather the following facts relating to local taxation. In Hobart Town the rates were 3*s.* 1½*d.* in the £; in Launceston. 3*s.* 3*d.* On the basis of last Census (7th February, 1870) the amount per head of population would be—Hobart Town, 16*s.* 2¾*d.*; Launceston, 15*s.* 8¾*d.* The population for the Rural Municipalities not having been distinguished in the Census Tables, we have no means of ascertaining what the rate per head was in them.

Valuation of Property.

The assessed value of property in 1873, as shown by the Valuation Rolls, was in excess of that of the previous year by 1,062*l.*, the amounts being 601,538*l.* and 600,476*l.* respectively.

V.—*Crown Lands.*

The following Table shows the Sales of Crown Land in 1872 and 1873:— Land Sales.

Description of Land.	No. of Lots.		Area.*		Proceeds of Sale.*		Average Price per Acre.					
	1873.	1872.	1873.	1872.	1873.	1872.	1873.			1872.		
			acres.*	acres.*	£	£	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Country lots - -	282	303	41,652	25,782	43,288	29,993	1	0	9¼	1	3	3
Town and suburban lots - - -	92	57	483	383	3,519	1,891	7	5	8	4	19	0
Total - -	374	360	42,135	26,165	46,807	31,884	—			—		

The Town Sales show an increase both in number of lots and area, and also in the average price; but in regard to the Country Sales, while the area was much larger, the number of lots and the average price were less. The increase in quantity was principally upon lots of 500 acres and upwards, the area of which was nearly four times as large as in 1872, being 4,475 and 24,360 acres respectively.

The amount produced by sales of Crown land in 1873 was larger by 14,923*l.*, or 46·8 per cent., than in 1872.

The average price for town and suburban lots was higher by 2*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, while that of country lots was lower by 2*s.* 5¾*d.*

The extent of Crown Land under lease in 1873 was less than that in the previous year by 8,591 acres, and the rental produced was 649*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* less. But as it is stated in a note by the Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands that 79,196 acres heretofore held under the "Quiet Enjoyment" tenure had fallen in, the decrease is easily accounted for. Grants Leased.

We have already seen, when speaking of the produce of the Gold Fields, that there was much less activity in alluvial mining last year in consequence of the limited extent of available ground having been nearly worked out. From this cause we are prepared to find a considerable decrease in the amount of land occupied for gold-mining purposes. Thus the number of Miners' Rights issued and in force in the year was only 198 as against 810 in 1872; Gold Mining Leases applied for, 4 for 52 acres, instead of 5 for 69½ acres; Leases executed, 2 for 13½ acres, instead of 10 for 146¼ acres; while the amount of money received declined from 831*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* to 476*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* The leases in force at the end of the years 1873 and 1872 were 17 and 26 respectively, with aggregate areas of 301¾ and 473¾ acres. Gold Fields.

Notwithstanding these unfavourable comparisons, the prospects of Quartz Mining becoming a profitable and permanent industry were perhaps never better than at present; though alluvial mining must always, in this Colony, occupy a very subordinate place.

Other Minerals excited a much larger share of attention in the past year than in previous years; the number of Leases for mining Mineral Leases.

* Fractions omitted.

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purposes having been 29 with an area of 1,997 acres against 8 in 1872 with an area of 565 acres. Of the former number 20 were for Iron, 5 for Tin, 1 for Copper, 2 for Coal, and 1 for Lime. The amount of rental received in 1873 was in excess of that in 1872 by 381*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

Agricultural and Live Stock.

In regard to the Agricultural and Live Stock Returns, I regret to say that in spite of every possible exertion to accelerate their completion, they could not be published this year before the 13th July, although last year they appeared in the 'Gazette' of the 24th June. The delay arose from two causes. A part of the police force having been withdrawn from the greater number of the districts, for urgent temporary service in the Launceston and Western Railway District, such withdrawal was urged in one or two instances as an excuse for delaying the returns beyond the usual time; and those for Oatlands, which were the last received, were kept back by an unfortunate misunderstanding arising from a total change of Warden, Council Clerk and Superintendent of Police, in consequence of which the work of collecting information was not begun until a considerable time after the 31st March had elapsed.

In order to hasten the collection, after ascertaining the opinions of the Wardens and Police Officers, I had supplied the Collectors with Schedules corresponding to the householders' schedules used for Census purposes, leaving it to their discretion to use them or not. Some have reported favourably of the plan; and I hope, that by this means in future years, the returns will be completed somewhat sooner. A difficulty was felt in some cases from the carelessness and indifference of those to whom they were sent, in not returning them; but this is an evil which, as long as human nature is what it is, will always be more or less felt.

Directing our attention now to the returns in detail, we find in the total extent of land under cultivation a decrease of 7,328 acres, and in that in crop a decrease of 1,615 acres. The Reports of the Collectors assign as a reason for this declension, the scarcity and high price of labour, causing the holders of land to occupy themselves less with tillage, and more with the rearing of stock. In Wheat there is a decrease of 3,780 acres; in Oats of 623; in Turnips, Carrots, and Mangel Wurzel, of 1,654; in Hay, of 6,862; in Gardens and Orchards, 265; in Fallow land, 3,611; in all other cultivated land, of 3,576. In the quantity of new land broken up there is a decrease of 1,441 acres, and in land under rotation of crops a decrease of 5,372. There are increases in the following:—Barley, 689 acres; Pease, 318; Potatoes, 397; Hops, 3; Green Forage, 319; Permanent Pastures, 1,474.

The falling-off in the acreage in crop of course affected the produce in a proportionate degree.

In the average produce, there is a general falling-off, as compared with the average of 1872–3, caused (if we may take the meteorological observations at Hobart Town as a criterion for the whole Colony) by a smaller rain-fall in the months of May, June, August, October, November, and December—the three latter being just those when, on account of the warmth of the atmosphere, moisture has the greatest effect on vegetable life.

The average of the principal Crops for the last three years is shown below:—

Years.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Pease.	Potatoes.	Mangel Wurzel.	Hay.	Hops.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	tons.	tons.	tons.	lbs.
1873–74 -	15·66	20·14	20·78	14·78	3·17	11·07	1·15	718·56
1872–73 - -	17·63	23·04	25·00	20·85	4·21	12·72	1·44	1053·24
1871–72 -	14·09	18·20	19·93	14·15	2·88	11·08	1·10	786·45

It will be seen that the average was better than that of 1871–2, except in the case of Hops (the difference as regards Mangel Wurzel is not worth noticing), in which the serious decrease at Launceston from 1,600 lbs. to 458 lbs. is attributed to the dryness of the season and the absence of means of irrigation.

The highest yield of Wheat returned, in 1872–3, was 25·26 bushels per acre, which occurred in the district of Longford. This was exceeded in 1873–4, the average for the district of Hobart being returned as 26·23 bushels. At Brighton, Clarence, Franklin, Kingborough, Richmond, Sorrell, Spring Bay, all on the South or East, the Wheat Crop seems to have been better.

It is encouraging to observe that the acreage of Wheat reaped by machine increased from 2,389 in 1872–3 to 5,728, or very nearly double, in 1873–4. In view of the difficulty of obtaining manual labour so severely felt in the last season, it is of the utmost importance to encourage the use of machinery; and it is greatly to be wished that the Agricultural Societies would direct their attention more earnestly to this point.

The prices of agricultural produce were generally higher in 1873–4 than in the previous year. The averages, as regards the principal products, were—In 1873–4: Wheat, per bushel, 5*s.* 2¼*d.*; Barley, 5*s.* 1*d.*; Oats, 3*s.* 11*d.*; Potatoes, per ton, 4*l.* 3*s.*; Onions, 12*l.* 16*s.*; Hay, 4*l.* 10*s.*; Hops, per lb., 1*s.* 5*d.*; Apples, per bushel, 3*s.* 11*d.*; Pease, 3*s.* 8*d.* In 1872–3: Wheat, 4*s.* 7¾*d.*; Barley, 4*s.* 11½*d.*; Oats, 2*s.* 8*d.*; Potatoes, 3*l.* 2*s.* 7½*d.*; Onions, 5*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*; Hay, 3*l.* 5*s.*; Hops, 1*s.* 4*d.*; Apples, 3*s.* 6¾*d.*; Pears, 3*s.* 1½*d.*

In Agricultural Machinery there seems to have been a very remarkable increase; and this is the most encouraging indication of progress in agriculture that I have yet observed. The difficulty of obtaining labour, which was so keenly felt during the year, will not only not be more than a temporary inconvenience, but will prove a positive and lasting benefit, if it leads the employers to adopt the use of machinery, by which manual labour is economized and profits increased. If South Australia, with an average yield of not much more than half that of Tasmania, can grow grain at a profit, the latter ought, in the open lands, to be far better able to make agriculture a remunerative industry.

The increases in Machinery were—Clod Crushers, 9; Cultivators (horse), 33; Corn Crushers, 19; Hay Elevators 37 (10 by steam); Hay Rakes, 23; Horse Hoes, &c., 59; Mowing Machines, 6; Ploughs, subsoil, 28; Reaping Machines, 13; Reaper and Mower combined, 21; Seed Drills, 6; Sowing Machines, 2; Threshing

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Machines, 19, one being driven by steam. The double-furrow plough is coming into use in several districts.

Live Stock.

The number of Live Stock, with the exception of Horses and Goats, on 31st March, 1874, was in excess of that in 1873. At the former date there were—Horses, 22,612; Horned Cattle, 106,308; Sheep, 1,490,746: Pigs, 59,628. The increase being—Cattle, 1,714, or 16·39 per cent.; Sheep, 95,393, or 6·84 per cent.; Pigs, 5,701, or 10·57 per cent.

The returns furnished by the Inspectors of Stock at Hobart Town and Launceston of Live Stock imported and slaughtered at the public abattoirs in 1873 and 1872, show the numbers in those years to have been—

		1873.	1872.	Increase.
Sheep	Imported	13,238	4,915	8,328
	Slaughtered	60,230	49,427	10,803
Cattle	Imported	921	828	93
	Slaughtered	8,839	8,261	578
Pigs—Slaughtered		4,657	4,872	—

VI.—*Law, Crime, &c.*

Commitments.

The number of persons committed for trial in 1873 was 125, being two more than in 1872. Of these 55·2 per cent. were persons who had previously been always free.

Persons tried by Superior Courts.

The number tried in the Superior Courts was 101, of whom 75 were convicted, and 26 acquitted. Forty were offenders against the person, and 61 against property. There was a decrease of 7 persons tried, as compared with 1872, and of 4 as compared with 1871. The number convicted, while 7 less than in 1872, was greater by 1 than in 1871.

By Magistrates.

The cases dealt with magisterially were, however, considerably more numerous than in the previous year. The number being 7,308 against 6,321, the increase being at the rate of 15·61 per cent. From 1867 to 1872 there was an uninterrupted decrease in these cases; and some unusual cause must therefore have operated to occasion so unexpected an increase. This is doubtless to be found in the introduction of a large number of labourers for the purposes of the Main Line Railway Company. Many of these men proved turbulent and refractory, and frequently came under the cognizance of the law, chargeable with offences against social order or against their employers. Thus, as might be expected under such a state of things, there was an increase in the cases summarily dealt with, of 750, and in those of drunkenness, of 234. The increase in the number convicted was 504, or 12·18 per cent.

Executions.

There have been no Executions since 1870.

Inquests.

Inquests were held on 156 persons, namely, 116 males and 40 females. In 1872 the number was only 139, but in 1871 it was 161; in 1870, 152; and in 1869, 158. Verdicts of suicide or self-murder were found in 7 cases, being in excess of the average of the preceding five years, which was 6·2 per annum.

Litigation.

The returns relating to Litigation in the Supreme Court, in its

"Small Debts" Jurisdiction, and Courts of Requests, show the following aggregate result in 1873:—Number of summonses issued, 2,543; of cases tried, 1,606; amount of claims sued for (omitting fractions), 13,277*l.*; amount of verdicts obtained, 6,317; number of writs and warrants issued, 558. As compared with the previous year, there was a decrease of 748 in the number of summonses; of 402 in the cases tried; of 3,732*l.* in the amount sued for; of 2,427*l.* in the amount awarded; and of 5 in the number of writs and warrants.

The Supreme Court in its ordinary jurisdiction issued 182 writs of summons during 1873, and tried 19 civil causes. The writs were fewer by 88 than in 1872; but there was an increase of 5 in the number of causes tried.

Probates, &c.

Probates of Wills were granted in 1873 to the number of 65, the value of the property being sworn under 101,741*l.*; besides 20 Letters of Administration relating to property to the value of 9,947*l.* These figures show the following increases:—Probates, 6, value 41,767*l.*; Letters of Administration, 4, the value of the property in the last case being, however, 13,621*l.* less in 1873 than in 1872.

Bankruptcies.

The business of the Courts under the Bankruptcy Act in 1873 was very trifling as compared with the two former years. Only 7 Petitions in Bankruptcy were presented; and the same number for liquidation by arrangement. Upon these 7 persons were declared bankrupt, and 6 had their estates put into the hands of Trustees.

For the last three years, since the present Act came into force, the numbers were—

Years.	Petitions in Bankruptcy.	Petitions for Liquidation by Arrangement.	Total Petitions.
1873	7	7	14
1872	13	35	48
1871	9	16	25

The decrease is very remarkable; the total number in 1873 being little more than half that in 1871, and less than one-third of that in 1872.

Mortgages.

The number of Mortgages effected in 1873 under both systems, was 367; the value of the property being 229,411*l.* Comparing these figures with those for the previous year, we find a decrease of 10 in the number, but an increase of 69,321*l.* in the value.

Lands Titles Office.

The transactions registered at the Lands Titles' Office in the last three years were—

Years.	Number.	Value of Property.	Area of Property.
		£	acres.
1873	960	221,764	118,370
1872	710	162,681	118,927
1871	691	214,515	107,202

Bills of Sale.

In the number and amount of Bills of Sale registered in 1873, there was a considerable decrease; the number being 151 against 173; the amount, 59,752*l.*, against 92,680*l.*

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Deeds, &c., Registered.

On the contrary, there was an increase of 56 on the number of Memorials, Judgments, and Certificates of Satisfaction registered; and of 234 in the number of Deeds enrolled in the Supreme Court.

VII.—*Education, Religion, &c.*

Public Schools.

The Returns relating to Public Schools show that the number of Schools in 1873 was 141, or 2 more than in 1872; that the number of distinct Scholars on the Rolls during the year was 10,803, or 824 more; the average number on the Rolls, 7,047, or 109 more; the average number in daily attendance, 5,268, or 44 more; the number who entered during the year, 3,851, or 210 more; the number who left, 2,707, or 31 more. In the number of Teachers of all kinds, including paid Monitors, there was a decrease of two in 1873.

The total expenditure from the Treasury on account of these schools in 1873 was 12,272*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*, or 101*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* in excess of that for 1872. The amount received from parents in school fees was 4,340*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, or 486*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* more than in that year.

The amount of Government aid per annum for each scholar, calculated on the average number in daily attendance, was 2*l.* 7*s.* 8¾*d.*

Council of Education.

The amount disbursed by the Council of Education in the maintenance of two Scholars at British Universities, and in relation to the Degree of Associate of Arts, was 636*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*

Exhibitions.

On Exhibitions tenable at the higher Schools, awarded by the Council and Board of Education, there was expended the sum of 562*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*

Friendly Societies.

The returns of Friendly Societies filed with the Clerks of the Peace show that the number of members at the end of 1873 was 2,179, and the capital 12,501*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*; the receipts during the year, 5,039*l.* 13*s.* 6½*d.*; and the expenditure, 3,673*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*

As compared with the figures of the preceding year, there was an increase in the members of 647; in the capital, of 2,219*l.* 18*s.* 9½*d.*; in the receipts, of 1,176*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*; and in the expenditure, of 942*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*

The number of Societies which filed returns has, however, always fallen short of the number in existence. The Friendly Societies Act, 19 Vic., No. 26, requires that the Trustees or other Officer of every Society registered under that Act shall file a statement in a prescribed form every year before the 1st February; and enacts that the Trustees shall be incapable of prosecuting any action at law or in equity until such statement shall have been filed. In many cases the requirements of the Act in this respect are habitually disregarded; and it is well that the attention of Trustees of such Societies should be pointedly called to the fact, that so long as they neglect them, they are at the absolute mercy of any dissatisfied member who chooses to appeal to the law. It is for the interest of the members also to take care that the office-bearers comply with the provisions of the Act.

VIII.—*Vital Statistics.*

Births.

The number of Births registered in 1873 was 3,048, namely, Males, 1,512; Females, 1,536—being 35 more than in 1872. On the Births of Males in 1873 there was a decrease of 15; on those of Females an

increase of 50. The ratio of Males to Females was as 98·44 to 100. This excess in the births of female children is very remarkable. I can only find three other instances in the published Statistics of the Colony, namely, in 1839, 1841, and in 1852.

The ratio of Births to population was 29·24 per 1000,—less by 0·03 than in 1872.

Deaths.

The number of Deaths registered in 1873 was 1,504—namely, Males, 896; Females, 607; and 1, sex unknown. There was an increase upon those of 1872 of 93.

Adding to these 1,504 deaths those (8) of Convicts under punishment at Port Arthur, not registered, making the whole number 1,512, the death-rate for 1873 is found to be 14·51 per 1,000, being 0·66 above the average (13·85) of the five years 1868–73, and 0·75 above the rate in 1872.

The ratio of deaths per 1,000 of each sex living at the end of the year 1873 was—Males, 16·18; Females, 12·43.

On examining the ages of those who died during the last two years, we find that the children under one year of age were 40 less in 1873; from 1 to 5 years, 15 more. From 10 to 40, the number was 58 more; from 40 to 80, 43 more; and from 80 upwards, 19 more. Thirteen Males and six Females between 90 and 100 died in 1873, and only 6 of each sex in 1872. So that the past year seems to have been especially unfavourable as compared with the other, to adult and declining life.

The ratio of Deaths of both sexes at each age are 100 Deaths of Males and Females for 1870* and 1873 is shown in the following Table:

Ages.	Males.		Females.	
	1873.	1870.	1873.	1870.
All Ages.	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00
Under 1 year	15·29	19·93	21·25	23·35
2 years	3·91	2·86	5·27	3·96
5 „	3·91	3·67	4·78	6·21
10 „	2·34	2·52	3·62	4·33
20 „	4·58	4·24	7·41	4·90
30 „	4·24	4·58	6·43	6·78
40 „	4·46	4·58	8·73	7·72
50 „	6·70	7·21	9·39	10·93
60 „	11·05	13·52	11·04	11·11
70 „	19·20	15·24	9·39	9·79
80 „	17·52	14·55	8·07	8·85
90 „	5·13	5·61	3·46	1·88
Ninety years and upwards	1·45	1·26	0·99	—
Not specified	0·22	0·23	0·17	0·19

Seven cases of Scarlatina were registered in 1873 in excess of those in 1872. Of Diphtheria 28 persons are certified to have died in 1873, and only 1 in 1872.

The high rate of mortality in 1873 as compared with 1872, appears to have been caused mainly by the increase (54) in the deaths of old

* This year is selected for comparison because the ratios are already calculated, which has not been done for the intervening years.

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people. Under the Class of Developmental Diseases, there were altogether 100 deaths registered in 1873 in excess of those in the previous year.

The other Classes do not present any remarkable variations.

Croup, Influenza, and Catarrhs, Rheumatism, Bronchitis, Pleurisy, Enteritis, Nephria, were much more fatal in 1873 than in 1872, and so were Atrophy and Debility—the latter principally among children. On the other hand fewer deaths were caused by Whooping Cough, and Diarrhœa, and by Fevers.

Diseases and Deaths in Government Institutions.

The number of cases of disease treated in the General Hospitals at Hobart Town and Launceston, in the Hospital at Campbell Town, and at the Queen's Asylum for Destitute Children in 1873 was 2,000, and the Deaths 166. On the 'Cases,' as compared with those of the previous year, there was an increase of 313, and on the Deaths, of 2.

Scarlatina was very prevalent; so were catarrhal affections, diseases of the respiratory organs, and rheumatism. Under the head of "other "zymotic diseases" there was an entry of 163 cases, against only 1 in the preceding year! In the Class of Zymotic, or fermentative diseases, altogether there were 195 more cases, and 18 more deaths than in 1872. Skin diseases and accidents were also more numerous. Four cases of attempted suicide by poison were treated in the two principal Hospitals, all of which recovered.

In the other Government Establishments there was an increase of 419 in the cases treated, and of 34 in the deaths.

There were no Vaccinations performed at any of the Hospitals during the year.

Marriages.

The number of Marriages in 1873 was 659, against 632 in 1872,—an increase of 27.

The ratio of Marriages to population in 1873 was 6·32 per 1,000, and in 1872, 6·14. The average rate for the last five years was 6·31 per 1000.

Meteorology.

The table of Meteorological observations at Hobart Town shows that the mean height of the Barometer during the year was 29·903; temperature, 58·43; daily range of thermometer, 21·64; solar intensity, 93·60; terrestrial radiation, 39·36; humidity of the air, 0·68; rainfall, total for the year 23·43 inches; monthly mean, 1·95; number of days on which rain fell, 157; mean in each month 13·08; mean force of wind in each month, 77·50 lbs. per inch.

Atmospheric pressure was less than in 1872; the temperature higher on the whole, and higher also in the months of February, April, May, June, August, October, and December, but lower in the remaining months; daily range somewhat lower; solar intensity 0·30 higher; radiation lower; humidity of the air 0·03 less; total rainfall 8·33 inches less (equal to about 4½ months' fall in 1873), monthly mean 0·7 inch less; number of days on which rain fell only 3 fewer, monthly mean 0·25 less. The dryness of 1873 therefore was caused, not so much by the infrequency of rain as by the scanty supply. Wind-force was nearly the same as in 1872,* but 19·13 lbs. per inch above the 30 years' average.

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* A correction is required in the Table for 1872, by inserting wind-force for May, 86·66, which makes the total 811·89, and the monthly mean 77·66.

With a drier atmosphere, and violent north-westerly winds in the months of September and October—just the time when the warm still weather is most required for the process of vegetation—it can easily be understood why the average produce of the soil was so much below that of the preceding year.

IX.—*Miscellaneous.*

Political Franchise.

The only circumstance under this head which it is necessary to mention is, that the number of Electors for the Legislative Council on the Rolls after revision was 2,805, or 14 more than in 1872. In the Electors for the House of Assembly there was also an increase of 38, the number for the past year being 14,039.

Conclusion.

Taking a general survey of the foregoing facts, we find more matter for congratulation than has appeared for many years past. There was, it is true, still a drain of population; but those who remained found better employment. Trade was brisker, commerce more enterprising, the revenue rising, capital accumulating, the means of inter-communication (Post Office, Telegraph, and Railway) more extensively used; the public lands in greater demand; and the incumbrances on property relieved.

The mineral wealth of the Colony is becoming better known, and the rich deposits of Tin cannot fail eventually to prove a source of large profit. Quartz mining has been proceeding steadily at the Black Boy, and has started into fresh vigour at the Nine Mile Springs in consequence of renewed discoveries there. Slate quarries have been opened, and slates of marketable quality produced. Little, however, seems to have been done towards utilizing the stores of coal and iron with which the Colony abounds; but I believe that efforts have been successfully made by the Tasmanian Charcoal Iron Company to bring English capital to bear on the manufacture of the latter. This seems to be the only way in which these minerals can be profitably worked; the capital required being larger, and the skill greater, than local resources can supply.

It is doubtless an unfavourable circumstance that the quantity of land under cultivation was less, but the chief cause was one that will soon pass away; and on the other hand, if the area was less, more intelligence was brought to bear upon it.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. C. NOWELL,
Government Statistician.

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No. 17.

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Governor WELD to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Perth,
September 30, 1874.

MY LORD,

IT has appeared to me that your Lordship may think it desirable that, before I leave, I should, so far as the limits of a Despatch may enable me to do so, place before you the present state of this Colony, review the progress it has made within the last five years, and indicate its future prospects.

2. When I was appointed to the Government of Western Australia I was aware that from various causes the Colony had made but little progress; and on my arrival in September, 1869, I found chronic despondency and discontent, heightened by failure of the wheat crop, by the prospect of the gradual reduction of convict expenditure and labour on which the settlers had been accustomed to depend, by the refusal of the Home Government to continue to send out free immigrants, and by that vague dread of being thrown on their own resources so natural to men who have been accustomed to take no part in their own affairs, and who have consequently learned to rely entirely upon the Government, and not at all upon themselves. One healthy symptom there was, and that was a desire, not very strong perhaps, or even generally founded upon a just appreciation of the past, or political foresight of the future; but still a very wide-spread desire, and to many a reasonable and intelligent desire, for a form of representative institutions which might give the Colonists some real voice in the management of their own affairs.

3. At the earliest possible moment I commenced work by travelling over as much as possible of the settled and partially settled districts of the Colony; an old Colonist bushman and explorer myself, travelling on horseback and "camping out" were but natural to me, and I wished to judge for myself of the capabilities of the Colony; and before I had been six months in the country I had ridden considerably over 2,000 (two thousand) miles, some part of the distance unfortunately, owing to an accident, with a fractured rib and other injuries. I had made acquaintance with settlers of all classes, and was able to form an opinion so accurate, both of the people and of the country I have since had to deal with, and of their capabilities, that I have never altered that opinion, nor have my many subsequent journeys done more than supplement the knowledge I then gained.

4. My first political aim was to promote local self-government in local affairs by establishing or giving real power to Road Boards and Municipalities (a policy I afterwards carried into effect with School Boards also); and, so soon as I had obtained the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, I introduced that modified form of representative institutions provided by 13 and 14 Vic., chap. 59, and then passed the Municipal Acts I have mentioned above. This policy has

fulfilled not only my expectations but my hopes, and should the Council that is about to meet wish to take the ultimate step of entering into complete self-government by adopting the "responsible" system, the preparation afforded by the last five years will admittedly be of the greatest value.

5. It fell to me to carry into effect the ecclesiastical policy indicated by Lord Granville in a Despatch, No. 80, of July 10, 1869, held over for my arrival, in which his Lordship suggested that grants (regard being had to the number in the community of each denomination) should be equal in substance and alike in form, and asked if there were any difficulties in applying to Western Australia "that principle of "religious equality which had long been recognized in the Australian "Colonies." Lord Kimberley, in an enclosure to his Despatch, No. 78, of December 19, 1870, expressed similar views. To this on the March 1, 1871, in my Despatch, No. 37, I was enabled to reply, that I had already carried the policy recommended into practice, that the grants had been equalized by "levelling up," that the vote for the Church of England was "now handed over to the Bishop of Perth, "the Government reserving the right to satisfy itself that it is "applied to those purposes of religious ministration and instruction "for which it is voted, and that all vested interests are maintained "intact and claims on the Government respected." Since then I have supported such measures as were thought desirable to promote self-organization, and I have moreover made liberal grants of land for glebes, churches, schools, and institutions to the various religious bodies in proportion to their numbers. I have reason to know that on all sides satisfaction is felt at the position in which I shall leave ecclesiastical affairs so far as the action of Government may affect them.

6. The elementary educational question on my arrival was a source of much contention and ill-feeling, which came prominently into play, when in the second session of 1871 I caused a Bill, drafted by myself, and the general provisions of which I was subsequently informed were "entirely approved of" by your Lordship's predecessor, to be introduced into the Legislature, and carried it, not however quite in its original form; though the alterations are unquestionably defects and may somewhat mar its success, it has hitherto worked very well, and has proved itself not only effective but economical: it has received praise from its former opponents and from the most opposite quarters, and old bitternesses are now (I hope for ever) things of the past.

7. I have not failed to give the utmost support in my power, a support unfortunately much needed in a Colony like this, to the Chief Justice, and it has been a great gratification to me that on my recommendation the long and valuable services of Sir Archibald Paull Burt have been recognized by Her Majesty, and that he has received the honour of knighthood, a rank which none of Her Majesty's servants will more fitly adorn. I have suggested to the Legislature that a small increase of salary should be given to uphold the dignity of the Supreme Court, and the question, to which I have already drawn the attention of the Legislature, of the appointment of two Puisne Judges and constitution of a Court of Appeal ought to be taken into consideration at no distant period. One new resident magistracy

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has been established in a district where it was very much needed, and 2 (two) Local Courts have been constituted; there is some difficulty in finding a sufficiency of fit persons for the commission of the peace who are willing to exert themselves, and the pay of the "resident "magistrates" is in too many cases insufficient to enable them properly to support their position as representatives of the Government in their districts.

8. In the Military Department I have enabled successive commandants to make reductions in the enrolled Pensioner Force. By withdrawing the guard from Rottnest Island, and by concurring in the reductions at out-stations, a very considerable saving has thus been effected. I have given all the encouragement in my power to the Volunteer movement, and I may confidently state that the Volunteer Force was never before in so good a state either so far as regards numbers or efficiency: to this result the efforts of successive commandants and the liberality of the Legislature have mainly contributed.

9. It has been for me to preside over the latter stages of the existence of the Imperial convict establishment in Western Australia, as a large and important department; henceforth it will be confined in narrow limits, and I may state with confidence that the great reductions and concentrations that it has been my duty to effect have not been attended with those disastrous effects to the Colony that were so confidently predicted, and also that although the residue of convicts are, many of them, men of the doubly reconvicted class and long-sentence men, discipline is well kept, serious prison offences are rare, the health of the men is excellent, whilst severe punishments are seldom needful. I here beg leave to make favourable mention of Mr. W. R. Fauntleroy, Acting Comptroller-General of Convicts, who has proved himself to be a most valuable officer.

10. Much remains to be done in the Survey and Lands Department; when Mr. Fraser in December, 1870, took charge of the department, the greatest economy was needed to make the revenue of the Colony meet the expenditure, and consequently it was necessary to reduce and lay upon our oars; Mr. Fraser reorganized his department, putting it on a new system, letting out work by contract instead of keeping up a large permanent staff, and thereby effected a considerable annual saving; at the same time he has been steadily working, as time and means have permitted, towards certain definite objects; namely, in the direction of a trigonometrical survey, by fixing points, by making sketch and reconnaissance surveys of new and important districts, and by accurately fixing by survey main lines of road: this will give a connection to the records in the Survey Office which has been hitherto wanting, and will contribute to enable him to construct that great desideratum, a large and accurate map of Western Australia, so far as it is settled or partially settled. I concur with Mr. Fraser in thinking that so soon as means will admit, a considerably increased annual expenditure should be devoted to surveys.

11. The joint survey of the coast will also aid in this work: the Admiralty, in assenting to my proposal to undertake a joint coast survey, which has been placed under a highly meritorious officer, Navigating Lieutenant Archdeacon, R.N., have conferred a great

benefit on this Colony, and promoted the interests of British commerce and navigation, much valuable work having already been done.

12. In close connection with the Survey and Lands Department is the topic of exploration. So soon as possible after my first arrival, I took upon myself to send Mr. John Forrest overland to Adelaide, along the shores of the great Bight, nearly on the line of Mr. Eyre's route in 1841: I did this before the introduction of representative government, and it is right to say that I knew, that I could not have got a vote for it, I felt that this was the last act of an expiring autocratic régime, and I believe it was one of the least popular of my acts, but certainly no small sum of public money has been expended with greater results—for, as I hoped, Mr. Forrest's expedition has bridged the gap that separated West Australia from the other Colonies, has led to settlement on the shores of the great Bight, and to the connection of this Colony with the rest of the world by electric telegraph. I never doubted of the future of West Australia from the day when the news of Mr. Forrest's success reached Perth. Since then more interest has been taken in exploration. A second expedition was sent out to the eastward under Mr. Alexander Forrest in 1871, with the support of the Legislature and of some of the settlers, and at present under the same auspices Mr. John Forrest is again exploring to the northward and eastward: his route will be guided by circumstances, but it is not improbable that he may aim for the Central Australian Telegraph line, and I am already anxiously expecting tidings of him.

13. In 1870, with a vote I obtained from the Council, I engaged Mr. Henry Y. Brown as Government Geologist: his geological sketch map and his researches, which he pushed in one instance far into the interior, have been of the greatest value; and it was with much regret that in 1872, owing to the disinclination evinced in the Legislature in the then straightened circumstances of the Colony to expend money on a scientific department, that I was obliged to forego my desire of making it a permanent part of the establishment.

14. As Colonel Warburton's journey from the Central South Australian Telegraph line to our north-west coast was set on foot and its expenses defrayed by private colonists of South Australia, I only allude to it to acknowledge the obligation that this Colony lies under to those public-spirited gentlemen and to the gallant leader and his followers. Parties headed by Mr. Gosse, by Mr. Giles, and by Mr. Ross have all within the last two years penetrated from the eastern Colonies to within the boundary of our unexplored territory, but, beyond a certain extension of geographical knowledge, without effecting any material results.

15. Under the head of Survey and Lands Department, it will be proper to glance at the alterations in the Land and Mineral Regulations, which have offered increased inducements and facilities for cultivation and occupation, and which have considerably promoted mining enterprise; Gold Mining Regulations have been also prepared and are ready for issue, should occasion, as is likely, render them requisite. I willingly acknowledge the assistance I have received from Mr. M. Fraser, the Surveyor-General and Commissioner of Crown Lands, who has had much experience in New Zealand, for the services he has rendered in all these matters.

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16. The mineral riches of this Colony are very great; I have never doubted but that they would ultimately become a main source of its advancement. All the different kinds of auriferous quartz known in other Colonies are found abundantly in various parts of this—the question of payable gold is, as I have long since reported, simply a question of time. After many efforts, I at last, in 1873, obtained a vote for prospecting, and the results are most promising, the fact of the existence of rich auriferous quartz being now established. We shall immediately be in a position to crush specimen consignments of quartz by a Government steam-crusher, and I doubt not but that, if followed up, the results will be most important. But gold is not the only, nor perhaps the most important, of the minerals possessed by West Australia. The Colony is extraordinarily rich in lead, silver, copper, iron, plumbago, and many other minerals are found in various localities, and indications of coal and petroleum are not wanting—what *is* wanting, is energy and enterprise to develop these riches, and that energy and enterprise is being attracted chiefly from Victoria, first by means of concessions that I was enabled to make, and now by the reports of the new comers to their friends. I made a small concession to a smelting company: and another, and also an iron mining company, is in the field.

17. When on my arrival I turned around me to see what was to be looked for to supply the place of Imperial expenditure, only second to our minerals, our forests attracted my attention. They could not fail to do so, because just before I came there was an outcry for the development of this industry by Government aid. With Lord Granville's assent I made liberal concessions, and thereby induced a pioneer company, shortly followed by others from Victoria, to embark capital in the enterprise. The public ardour here had, however, cooled, and an ignorant cry was raised against "foreigners," and the prospects of the trade were systematically decried. Several causes besides this militated against it, but it is surmounting them, and at the present moment not only are the companies largely employing labour and expending money, but their own success is becoming an established fact, and the export is enormously increasing, and with good management must continue to increase indefinitely. Whilst on this subject I may allude to the question of the preservation of our forests, but as I am treating it more fully in a separate Despatch I will only say that this and the kindred question of planting ought, at no distant period, to occupy the attention of our Legislature.

18. The pearl shell and pearl fishery may be said to have sprung into existence within the last few years. It employs a fleet of cutters and schooners, chiefly of small size, on the north-west coast, Port Cossack being the head quarters. At Sharks Bay also there are a number of smaller boats. A licence fee on boats and a tax on shells has been imposed by the Legislature; laws for the protection of aboriginal divers and Malays have been enacted. I shall immediately have a Government cutter on the north-west coast for police and customs purposes, which will also be useful in cases of shipwreck amongst the islands and inlets, and in searching for and reporting the position of reefs, of anchorages, and of new banks of pearl oysters. It will probably hereafter become advisable to let areas for pearling

under certain regulations as in Ceylon, but this could not well be done with our present means and knowledge.

19. To turn now to the more settled industries, first in importance is that of agriculture. It is chiefly in the hands of men of little capital, and is carried on in a very slovenly way by the greater part of them. Bad seasons, an over-great reliance on cereals, which have for several successive years been seriously affected by the "red rust," and a neglect of other products suitable to the soil and climate, added in too many cases to careless and intemperate habits, have until lately rendered the position of many of the small farmers a very precarious one. Last year, however, was more favourable, and they to a great extent recovered themselves. The lesson of the past has not been altogether lost; they have also been much assisted by the new Land Regulations, and a few prosperous seasons will, I sincerely trust, put this class, which ought to be a mainstay of the Colony, into a really prosperous condition.

20. The cultivation of the vine is a profitable pursuit, and the quantity of land fitted for that purpose is very great, both soil and climate are eminently favourable to the growth of the grape; recent legislation has given some encouragement to wine growers by facilitating the sale of home-grown pure wine. The quantity of land laid down in vineyards is slightly increased, but the class of settlers that are most numerous in Western Australia do not readily take to industries that are new to them, however profitable they may be, nor can they afford to wait for returns, nor have many of them the knowledge necessary to make good wine: still this industry will become one of the most important in the Colony.

21. The pastoral interest is the pioneer interest of a new Colony. Western Australia has been somewhat less favoured than some other parts of Australia in its pastoral lands, but it has, nevertheless, a good deal of very good pastoral country, and under the extremely liberal concessions lately offered to those who will devote capital to the eradication of poison plants much more may be made available, whilst fresh country is being largely occupied inland.

The progress, however, of the pastoral interest, considering the age of the Colony, though latterly great, is not *so* great as might have been expected; the comparatively good prices obtainable and anticipated for meat have kept down the increase of stock, and consequently the yield of wool; and as yet very little or nothing has been done to supplement natural resources by growing artificial grasses and fodder plants. No country presents greater capabilities for horse breeding, and cattle do exceedingly well and are very profitable.

22. The sandal-wood trade is in a flourishing condition, and has brought money into the Colony, and enabled many of the poorer classes to obtain a livelihood by cutting that aromatic wood for export. It is, however, doubted by some whether the labour employed in this trade does not withdraw many from more steady and permanently useful labour on their farms and small holdings.

23. In the matter of minor industries, sericulture holds a first rank. I look to it in the future as a source of employment for paupers on the hands of the Government, and also for women and children. I have taken much interest in this pursuit and have caused a mulberry

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plantation to be made and plants distributed, and have published much information on the subject. The Report of the Chamber of Commerce of Como (Italy), alluded to in my Despatch, No. 61, of 20th May, 1873, conclusively shows that this Colony is remarkably well adapted for the cultivation of silk. The cultivation of the olive and the castor-oil plant are industries for which this soil and climate are extraordinarily well adapted. Tobacco, hops, and dried and preserved fruits might largely add to the riches of the Colony. In great part at my own expense, I have introduced and distributed hop plants and various kinds of fruits of great utility, and have in fact, in the absence of any botanic garden (in which I have vainly endeavoured to get the settlers to take an active interest), made my own garden a kind of nursery for acclimatisation and distribution of useful and ornamental plants, and I have also given a small concession for the cultivation of the cocoa nut on the north-west coast, where, in the absence of vegetables, it would be invaluable. And, thanks to the Government of the Mauritius, I have been able to introduce various kinds of sugar cane, for which part of this territory is well adapted. The growth of coffee has been also attempted on a Government plantation, but without success. Cotton had already been proved to thrive admirably, and to be excellent in quality, but is not considered likely to pay without cheap labour. I may here note that, with an eye to the future, I have made reserves for the purposes of public parks and recreation grounds in several places.

Deer, Angora goats, hares, and trout have been also introduced.

24. I will now proceed to another branch of my subject—public works and undertakings, and first in the category of public works and undertakings I put those which relate to communications, and under that subdivision immeasurably the most important are such means of communication as, by terminating the isolation which has been the great bar to the advancement of this Colony, may make it a living part of the system of life and progress which has been growing and prospering around it.

On this end was my mind set when I was appointed to the Governorship, to this end have I worked steadily ever since, and this end is partially accomplished, and its complete fulfilment is not distant.

The vote for the construction of the telegraph line viâ Eucla to South Australia passed last session, and the proposal of Messrs. Siemens Brothers regarding a submarine cable to Madras, fitly close an administration which found Western Australia within twelve miles, and has already placed her in possession of a complete telegraphic system, consisting of about 900 (nine hundred) miles of wire, worked at a remarkably small cost, in efficient order, already remunerative, and affording the greatest advantages both to the public service and to private business. It is noteworthy that four or five years ago there was a strong feeling that the construction of telegraphic lines was a waste of public money, and only a few months ago a prominent elected member of the Legislature publicly objected to the line which is to connect this Colony with the rest of the world, that it would only benefit a few individuals! Such ideas, however, are rapidly becoming obsolete even in Western Australia.

I will here note that under a power given me by law to fix and alter rates, I, in January, 1873, reduced the charges to a uniform rate of 1*s.* (one shilling) per ten words, and 1*d.* (one penny) for each additional word (press messages at quarter price), and was the first to do so in the Australian Colonies.

25. After much and persistent opposition, the Legislature was at length induced to vote a subsidy for steam on the coast, connecting our western ports and all this part of the Colony with Albany, King George's Sound, the port of call of the Royal mail steamers from Europe and the Eastern Colonies. This has done much to throw open this Colony, rendering access to it no longer difficult and uncertain, and greatly facilitating intercommunication; a very Chinese objection to steam communication has been publicly made by the same gentleman to whose opinion on telegraphic communication I have already alluded; namely, that it enabled people to *leave* the Colony. I am, on the contrary, of opinion that it is certainly conducing to progress and the promotion of commerce.

The steamer we have at present is, however, insufficient, but I doubt not but that a second and more powerful boat will shortly be procured, as it is already required: I understand, however, that no West Australian capital is as yet forthcoming for the purpose, nor for steam communication with India, than which nothing could be more important, as it would render available the magnificent geographical position of the Colony, and open a market close at hand for its products. I have long ago and frequently stated my willingness to give all possible Government support to such an undertaking.

26. I am immediately about, by invitation, to proceed to Champion Bay, and to cut the first sod of the first West Australian railway, on the Geraldton and Northampton line; I have already fully indicated the advantage that there is good reason to anticipate will result from the opening of that line, which will, I do not hesitate to say, be the parent of future and greater undertakings.

When the Colony arrives at a position safely to borrow a million or a million and a quarter, a railway from Fremantle and Perth, probably up the Helena valley, into the York district, and thence down the country eastward of the present Sound road, to the fine harbour of King George's Sound, would do more than anything else to give an outlet to the resources of the country and supply its wants; such a line would ultimately be extended through the Eastern districts and Victoria plains northward to the Irwin, Greenough, and Geraldton.

But I will recall myself from these and other speculations of the yet more distant future, and look back upon the modest past: two tramways with locomotives now bring timber to the coast from the Garrah forests, and there are also two other tramways for the same purpose, of less extent, but still of some importance. I have made concessions to the companies constructing them.

27. With regard to ordinary roads, I can very confidently say that, considering the extent of the country and its scattered population, no colony that I have ever seen is in a better position regarding roads. Occasionally, owing to the loss of convict labour, the scarcity of free labour, the disinclination of the people to tax themselves

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locally, and the great extent of the roads themselves, parts of the roads already made fall out of repair whilst other parts are being formed; but, on the whole, having perhaps traversed more of Western Australia than any one man in the Colony, I very confidently assert that, taking all in all throughout the country, the roads are in a better condition than they have ever been before. Large bridges have been constructed over the Upper Swan, Moore River, Blackwood, Capel, and Preston, besides 12 (twelve) smaller bridges, and a large one completed at the Upper Canning.

28. "Bushing" the Geraldton sand hills has been a very useful and successful work; the experiment was first tried by Lieutenant-Colonel Bruce. Part of the work has been done by convict labour, and part by farmers and settlers in payment for a loan advanced to them for seed-wheat before my arrival. It is not too much to say that this work has saved the town of Geraldton and its harbour from destruction by sand.

29. A little has been done in the way of improving the Swan River navigation by means of a dredge imported by Governor Hampton, and worked by prison labour and by an appropriation in the Loan Act of 1872. A work has also been constructed, from funds provided out of the same loan, at Mandurah, by which the entrance to the Murray River has been improved.

30. Harbour improvements have occupied much of the attention of Government. A fine and substantial open piled jetty at Fremantle, 750 (seven hundred and fifty) feet long, has been constructed, and answers all the purposes for which it was designed; but the larger and extremely difficult question of the construction of a really safe harbour at or near Fremantle is yet undecided. Various plans have been proposed, and great pressure has been put on the Government to commence works hastily and without engineering advice. At one time one scheme has found favour, and another at another, and the merits of the rival schemes of our amateurs have been popularly judged upon the principle of opposing most strongly anything that was supposed to find favour with the Government. Last session a strong wish to do *something* caused the Legislature to advocate a scheme which many persons think would cause the mouth of the river Swan to silt up, and expose the town of Fremantle to danger, lest the river in flood should burst out (as no doubt it did formerly) into the South Bay over the town site. The question, however, is referred to the Victorian Government engineer, and the Melbourne Government have been asked to allow him to visit this Colony, but I fear that the people will not accept his decision, and unless the members of the new Legislature will agree to do so, or in the event of his not coming, do what I have long since recommended, namely, ask your Lordship to refer the whole question to the decision of Sir John Coode, or some other great authority, and undertake beforehand to abide by it, I see no chance of anything being carried into effect until the warmth and personal feeling which, strangely enough, is always evoked by this question, shall be succeeded by a more reasonable and business-like mood. One of my first acts on reaching this Colony was, in accordance with the previously expressed wish of the Council and Colonists, to send for an engineer of high repute to report.

His Report only raised a tempest of objurgations, and I must frankly confess failure in my efforts to leave Fremantle with a harbour; and, indeed, I am far from being convinced that anything under an enormous outlay will avail to give an anchorage and approaches, safe in all weathers, for large ships, though I, with the Melbourne engineers, think that the plan of cutting a ship channel into Freshwater Bay, in the Swan River, advocated by the Rev. Charles Grenfel Nicholay, is worthy of consideration. Jetties at Albany, King George's Sound, the Vasse, Bunbury, and Geraldton have been lengthened, one at Dongarra constructed, and money has been voted for the construction of one at Port Cossack. Moorings have been procured from England and are being laid down at Fremantle and other ports.

31. With respect to public buildings, the Perth Town Hall, a very large and conspicuous building, commenced by Governor Hampton, was completed not long after my arrival, and handed over by me to the City Council and Municipality on June 1, 1870; attached to it I caused the Legislative Chamber to be built, and so arranged that at no great cost this Colony possesses a council room more convenient and in better taste than many I have seen of far greater pretensions. It is, however, proposed hereafter to build Legislative Chambers in the new block of Government buildings, of which the Registration Offices now about to be commenced will form a wing, for which the contract is 2,502*l.* (two thousand five hundred and two pounds). The public offices at Albany were finished shortly after my arrival. I may mention, among a number of less important buildings, the harbour master's house, Albany; school houses, there and in various other places large addition to Government Boys' School, Fremantle; Court House and Police Station, and Post and Telegraphic Offices at Greenough and at Dongarra; Police Station, Gingin; addition to Court House, York; Post and Telegraphic Offices at Guildford, York; and Northam Bonded Store, Government offices, and Police Station, Roebourne. Considerable additions have been made which add to the convenience and capabilities of the Fremantle Lunatic Asylum, and alterations and adaptions and additions have been made to several other buildings; for instance, at Albany a resident magistrate's house and also a convenient prison have been formed at no great outlay. At Perth a building has been erected to which I call attention, the Government printing house; this new department has been of immense service during the four years in which it has been in existence, in fact it would have been impossible to have gone on without it, and the Government printing work is most creditably done at a very reasonable cost. A handsome stone sea-wall has been commenced by convict labour at the new jetty at Fremantle, which will reclaim much valuable land, and greatly improve the appearance of the place. Harbour lights have been erected at several places. A large lighthouse is in the course of erection at Point Moore, at Geraldton, which will be of much importance, and it is proposed, with the co-operation of other colonies, to erect one near Cape Lecrowin, as recommended at an intercolonial conference on that subject.

32. Postal facilities have been increased, several new offices opened, and postages (under powers vested in me by law) considerably

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reduced, on both letters to the colonies and newspapers, from the tariff I found in force. In this a step in advance of some of our neighbours was taken.

33. I have reduced several police stations on the recommendation of Captain Smith, the superintendent, which appeared to be no longer necessary; but, on the other hand, I have extended police protection into outlying districts, both for the benefit of European settlers and of the aboriginal inhabitants. These latter have gained little and lost much by the occupation of their country by settlement. I have fought their battle against cruel wrong and oppression, holding, I trust, the hand of justice with an even balance, and I rejoice to say not without effect and benefit to both races. Their services as stockmen, shepherds, and pearlers are invaluable, and when they die out, as shortly no doubt they will, their disappearance will be universally acknowledged as a great loss to the Colonists.

34. The Legislature, I am happy to say, have latterly seconded my efforts by encouraging industrial institutions for their benefit. Similarly they have in the last session turned their attention to the condition of the destitute and criminal children of our own race; and, in my own sphere, I have done what was possible for the encouragement of the (denominational) orphanages which have been long established and are in full working order. This Colony is, for its size and means, well supplied with hospitals, asylums, and establishments for paupers, in which I have taken great personal interest.

35. In legislation I have endeavoured to avoid over-legislation and premature legislation. I have considered that free-trade principles are especially in place in a Colony situated as this is. The ad valorem duty, and that on wines, spirits, and a few other articles has been raised for revenue purposes; some others have been put on the free list; I successfully resisted the imposition of a duty on flour; I should have simplified the tariff still further than I have done, and admitted free many more articles—some of food, others used in our industries—had the Legislature not objected; the tariff as it stands is inconsistent. The English bankruptcy system has been introduced, and an Act passed regarding fraudulent debtors; distillation has been permitted under proper safeguards; Sunday closing of public-houses has been rendered compulsory with good effect; a Lunacy Bill on the English model has become law; the "Torrens" Land Registration system has been adopted, and will shortly be put into force. Many equally important measures are alluded to in their places in the pages of this Despatch, and I will not inflict upon your Lordship a list of many minor Acts, some not unimportant, which have proved beneficial in their degree.

36. Amongst lesser but not unimportant matters, I may mention that I have extended the system of taking security from Government officers in receipt of public moneys.

The commencement of a Law and Parliamentary Library has been made.

37. Immigration from England has, on a small scale, been set on foot lately, and families are now expected from neighbouring colonies, but our population from obvious causes has increased but slightly during the last five years; on my arrival it was said to be actually decreasing, and there were many reasons why such an opinion was

not unreasonable—reduction of the convict establishment threw some out of employment, expirees also desired to quit a country which to them had been a land of bondage, and the prospects of the country were gloomy ; now there is a great want of labour, any that comes is at once absorbed, and every effort should be made to attract a constant stream of immigrants.

38. It will be observed that when the whole authorized loan is raised, the Colony will be only in debt to the extent of a little over one year's income, or 5*l.* 16*s.* 5¼*d.* a head, whilst Victoria is indebted 15*l.* 14*s.* 10¾*d.*, New South Wales 19*l.* 7*s.*, South Australia 10*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*, Queensland 32*l.* 12*s.* 7¾*d.*, Tasmania 14*l.* 3*s.* 6¾*d.*, New Zealand 40*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* I beg also to call your Lordship's attention to the fact that Western Australia has only yet spent the 35,000*l.* (thirty-five thousand pounds) loan, and has now only begun to spend that of 100,000*l.* (one hundred thousand pounds). I also would point out that the last annual increase of revenue has about equalled the whole capital amount which has been expended out of loans.

39. I have caused the following statistics to be furnished me from the Treasury and Customs Departments for six years, ending on the 30th September of each year. The first year given, that ending on the 30th September, 1869, is the year immediately preceding my arrival, I having been sworn in on that very day.

	1869.			1870.			1871.			1872.			1873.			1874.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
*Imports - -	232,830	0	11	232,590	18	8	201,070	3	4	224,396	10	0	253,680	16	2	367,417	15	0
†Exports - -	178,860	15	2	204,447	2	2	194,934	9	3	228,807	12	9	278,502	16	0	398,900	8	6
◊Customs duties	48,157	8	9	45,270	14	6	43,464	2	3	53,556	4	5	60,022	1	1	82,016	12	0
‡Revenue - -	108,600	1	0	109,978	6	3	102,128	3	4	107,828	5	10	120,937	14	8	161,443	8	10
◊Expenditure -	107,213	1	10	119,478	8	4	112,285	10	7	103,205	16	0	120,259	11	9	131,334	18	5

OBSERVATIONS.

* Ships now expected will greatly swell the items of Imports and Customs.

† This is exclusive of *re*-exported articles, and the valuations are very moderate; in round numbers the Exports may be said to be over 400,000*l.*

‡ Part of the increase of Customs duties is owing to increase of duty on spirits, wines, and some other items; and ad valorem on the other hand credit should be given for some articles which have been admitted free; taking the balance as the amount accruing from increase of duties, it may be put at 12,000*l.* on the last year.

◊ It will be observed that for some time until better seasons returned, and measures bore fruit, I had to a slight extent to rely on the surplus I found in the chest to make Revenue and Expenditure meet. To have starved the Expenditure at that time would have been to have damaged the future progress of the Colony, and the Legislative Council opposed several reductions that I thought might have been effected.

On the 30th September, 1874, there was a sum of 36,616*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* (thirty-six thousand six hundred and sixteen pounds three shillings and five pence) in the chest, and something like this sum will be at the disposal of the Legislature at their meeting, beyond current revenue.

40. I need hardly say that the commercial state of the Colony is admittedly sound, and I am informed in a more prosperous condition than at any previous period of its existence. Landed property, especially about Perth, has lately risen immensely in value, and the rise is, I hope, spreading and will reach the outlying districts. Perth has lost its dilapidated appearance, and neat cottages and houses are springing up in all directions, and the same progress to some extent is noticeable in Fremantle and elsewhere.

41. I will not conclude this Report without recalling the success which attended the efforts made by the Government, to which my private secretary Mr. Henry Weld Blundell largely contributed, to

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represent the products of Western Australia at the Sydney Exhibition of 1873; much of this success was attributable to the exertions of Mr. F. P. Barlee, Colonial Secretary, then representing at Sydney this Colony in the intercolonial conference.

In that conference, the first to which a representative of this Colony was admitted, and which therefore marked an epoch in its political existence, Mr. F. P. Barlee took a prominent part, ably upheld the trust I placed in him, and received a most marked and cordial reception from our colonists on his return.

41. I have further to express my obligations to that officer for the assistance he has ever given me; were it not for his fearless and loyal support, for the confidence which is placed in him by the very great majority of the colonists, and for his fidelity in following my instructions and carrying out my policy, it would have been impossible for me, under a form of government most difficult to work, to have carried to a successful issue the trust that has been imposed upon me, and to have left this Colony prosperous and self-reliant.

42. Should your Lordship, considering the position in which I found Western Australia, the reduction of Imperial expenditure it has been my duty to effect, the failure of the wheat crop for four successive seasons and consequent depression, the inexperience of a new Legislature, the absence of any propositions for the benefit of the Colony from the opposition, the obstacles thrown at first in the way of all measures which have eventuated in good,—should you, considering these things and the present state of the Colony, be of opinion that the administration of its affairs during the last five years has not been unsatisfactory or unfruitful, I beg that you will award a due share of credit to the Colonial Secretary, who, as my mouthpiece in the Legislature, has carried on single handed all parliamentary business, and also to those gentlemen who are now, or have at various times been, members of my Executive and who have ever united to support me; to the nominated members of the Legislature who have steadily voted for all the measures which have led to the present progress of the Colony, and whose merits the constituencies have fully recognized by electing them as representatives on vacancies in every case where they have stood; to the elected members, who every session have given me increased support, and who, forming two-thirds of the Legislature, had it in their power entirely to have reversed my policy; and lastly, to the people of Western Australia, who on each election have increased my strength, on whose ultimate good sense, I—knowing colonists, myself an old colonist—put my reliance, a reliance which has not been disappointed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. A. WELD,
Governor.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

PAPERS

RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

PART II.—1875.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1875.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY W. CLOWES & SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1875.

[*C.*—1335.] *Price* 8½*d.*

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BERMUDA.

No. 1.

Major-General LEFROY, R.A., C.B., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Bermuda,
June 2, 1875.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year ending December 31, 1874, and to offer the following observations on it.

Revenue.

1. The revenue derived from an ad valorem duty of 5 per cent. on the great bulk of the miscellaneous imports of the Colony, is 11 per cent. greater than last year; but this increase is more than made up by diminished receipts from the duty on intoxicating beverages, due, I am happy to believe, in great measure to a real decrease of their consumption, and which has fallen off *fourteen* per cent. There is an increase to a small amount upon several items of casual revenue, but the net result is a decrease of about 3 per cent. in the receipts under the Supply Act, which, with a current expenditure, lately a little in excess of receipts, threatens future embarrassment unless the Colony will submit to somewhat heavier taxation. Many current public improvements call for larger appropriations. Some important works have been too long postponed. Public duties as vital as the due support of education and religion imperfectly performed, while the custom tariff is exceptionally low, and owing to the absence of local burdens the total incidence of taxation very light. It averages 31*s.* 6*d.* per head of the population. It is to be observed in this Colony no favour is shown to those involuntary residents, the officers of Her Majesty's forces; who even pay duty on uniforms and accoutrements, as well as on the wine consumed at messes, but there is little hope that taxes so often complained of will be removed while the present low tariff is maintained.

The total revenue derived from the resources of the Colony in 1874 amounted to 25,426*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, and the receipts from all sources to 36,945*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*

2. The sum of 8,506*l.*, contributed by H.M. Government to the cost of construction of Long Bird Island Causeway, was carried to account in 1874 as a receipt in aid of revenue, and the whole amount, together with a further sum, making on the whole 9,540*l.*, applied to repayment of loans. The public debt of the Colony is now reduced to 13,234*l.*, almost exactly half a year's revenue as derived from the resources of the Colony, and of this amount 1,850*l.* is due from the Corporation of Hamilton. It includes 7,844*l.* of Savings Bank deposits, which will be transferred by degrees into the hands of trustees appointed by an Act of the last Session.

The expenditure for 1874 amounted to 29,800*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*, and includes nothing unusual, except a sum of 2,071, spent in completing the new Lunatic Asylum.

BERMUDA.

3. The agricultural exports of the Colony continue to exhibit a remarkable rate of increase. They have doubled in value in five years, and there is no present appearance of the supply being in permanent excess of the demand, or of a permanent reduction of price, although the market of 1875 has been a very bad one for various reasons—partly because the season was a backward one in America, and the market was stocked too early; partly also from general depression in every branch of business in New York. The following Table contains the declared values of agricultural exports, being the staple produce of the country, for the last ten years:—

TABLE I.

	Arrowroot.	Onions.	Potatoes.	Tomatoes.	Other Vegetables and Fruits.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1865 - -	3,202	6,298	2,926	480	—	12,906
1866 - -	1,827	6,359	6,790	2,232	—	17,208
1867 - -	2,414	6,145	7,992	1,962	—	18,513
1868 - -	3,188	17,052	8,322	2,493	—	31,055
1869 - -	1,866	11,414	5,794	1,403	—	20,477
1870 - -	414	19,277	9,254	5,639	—	34,584
1871 - -	1,473	20,678	10,963	13,718	—	46,832
1872 - -	2,686	31,760	17,915	12,169	—	64,530
1873 - -	1,763	30,492	19,626	9,432	96	61,409
1874 - -	507	48,013	19,569	11,529	107	79,725

4. The diminution last year under the head of arrowroot is only apparent, the bulk of the crop not having been exported within the year. But the falling off of this once famous product of Bermuda is real and important. Arrowroot requires for its cultivation here deep soil of the best quality; and for many years past a belief has gained ground that in such soil other crops are more profitable, which is only partially true, as they are liable to greater fluctuations, but it is in consequence to some extent going out of cultivation. The real excellence of Bermuda arrowroot is, however, incontestable. It still commands in the London market double the price of any other, and the large quantity of arrowroot, the growth of West Indian Islands. which is passed off as Bermudian, is the best homage to its superiority, The quantities of arrowroot exported and the values declared since 1856, when the former begin first to be stated, are as follows:—

TABLE II.—ARROWROOT EXPORTED.

Year.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Year.	Quantity.	Declared Value.
	lbs.	£		lbs.	£
1856 - -	76,656	3,786	1866 - -	36,559	1,827
1857 - - -	101,043	6,287	1867 - - -	52,976	2,414
1358 - -	102,889	5,450	1868 - -	62,796	3,188
1859 - - -	48,980	2,852	1869 - - -	45,100	1,866
1860 - -	90,141	4,130	1870 - -	7,484	414
1861 - - -	105,411	4,292	1871 - - -	32,940	1,473
1862 - -	42,717	1,716	1872 - -	34,445	2,186
1863 - - -	46,172	2,408	1873 - - -	39,573	1,763
1864 - -	69,384	3,466	1874 - -	11,608	507
1865 - - -	53,032	3,202			
Average -	73,642			32,348	

Thus it appears that the quantity of arrowroot grown for the last nine years has been less than half of the quantity grown in the previous ten years, a neglect of a product for which the climate and soil of Bermuda appear to be peculiarly adapted, which can hardly fail to be injurious to its interests. The largest quantity of which I find any record is 199,890 lbs. in 1843.

5. Although the crops in Bermuda do not appear to be affected by a greater or less quantity of rain in so great a degree as the cane crops of the West Indies, or the grain crops of other countries, the singularly dry and porous nature of the soil makes the vegetation of the Island generally very much dependent upon a continuous supply of water from the heavens, and it may be here noted that the largest quantity recorded in any month for forty years fell in October, 1874, namely, 16·4 inches. A somewhat larger quantity fell in October, 1837 (17·2 inches), but there is no other instance of recorded rainfall in Bermuda in any one month exceeding 14·3 inches. The quantity in August was also excessive, amounting at one station to 13·6 inches, which is without a precedent in that month. The consequence was great luxuriance of vegetation and an abundant crop of oranges and lemons, but no perceptible influence on the succeeding crops; nor was public health apparently affected.

6. The Act of 1869 to regulate and readjust the public grants in aid of ministers of religion came into operation on the 1st January, 1874. By this Act the various Christian churches and denominations then extant in these Islands were to receive out of the Public Treasury grants in aid of their religious worship and teaching, at the rate of 10*l.* a year for every one hundred persons in professed connection or communion with them, as determined by the last preceding decennial census, with a reservation, however, in favour of then incumbents, whose incomes were not to be reduced. The Act failed to provide that children of tender age should be reckoned of the same religion as their parents, and in numerous instances parents of the humbler class, while adhering for themselves to the church or denomination they have been brought up in, have *obliged* some rival pastor, by permitting one or more children to be counted to his flock. The proportion falling to the Church of England, which is slightly in excess of its previous receipts, is administered by a central vestry. No difficulty has hitherto attended this arrangement, although it may be feared that it will introduce a disturbing element in the enumeration of the next census.

Three religious denominations have made their appearance in Bermuda since the passing of the Act, and, in the case of one of them at least, in consequence of it; the other two proceed, I believe, from passing phases of religious dissension, and may not be perpetuated.

Education.

7. I am unable to report any improvement in the extension of education to that large proportion of the population which stands in need of public assistance. The number of children nominally attending common schools was 8 per cent. less in 1874 than in 1873. The number actually attending was 10 per cent. less, while the proportion of those whose parents pay nothing, and in fact, under the actual system, must be held to defraud the teachers of their fees, has slightly increased. It is nearly one-fifth of the whole (19 per cent.). The

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education given is as meagre as can be imagined. There are 397 children returned as over ten years of age, while the number of those returned as able to read the Bible fluently, and to be learning compound rules of arithmetic, is only 158. The number to whom English grammar is taught is only 235, and the number to whom geography is taught is only 274. The children here referred to are chiefly of the coloured race. Out of an average of 848 names only about 42 per cent. of the whole are girls, who are not taught needlework, except in one or two instances where private benevolence has stepped in. The remuneration of the teachers is inadequate, and consequently the qualifications of many of them are of a very low order.

The following Table shows the number and ages of the children on the school registers in 1874, about one-tenth of whom, as before remarked, were absent for a whole quarter at a time:—

TABLE III.

1874.	Boys.	Girls.
On the school registers	477	371
Aged 5 to 8	139	106
„ 8 to 10	133	78
„ 10 to 12	89	68
„ 12 to 14	75	67
over 14	44	55
Elementary class	138	107
Able to read three syllable words, and learning simple arithmetic	99	87
Able to read the Bible, and learning compound arithmetic	61	59
More advanced	20	18
Pupils paying about 1*s.* a week	244	200
„ „ less than full rates	152	86
„ not paying at all	81	65

The following Table shows the remuneration of the teachers, as made up of fees paid by the children and allowances from the public grant. The schools being private ones, I omit the names:—

TABLE IV.

1874.	Receipts from Fees.	Receipts from Public Grant.	Total.	Teacher.
	£ *s.* *d*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	
1	54 2 0	54 13 9	108 15 9	Male, coloured
2	41 17 9	44 5 0	86 2 9	Ditto
3	35 8 6	40 4 10	75 13 4	Ditto
4	28 2 2	34 5 8	62 7 10	Ditto
5	23 0 3	22 15 4	45 15 7	Male, white
6	15 13 7	27 6 9	43 0 4	Female, coloured
7	19 11 9	20 18 8	40 10 5	Male, coloured
8	14 16 0	25 8 9	40 4 9	Female, white
9	15 16 9	22 3 8	38 0 5	Ditto
10*	19 14 1	17 2 5	36 16 6	Male, white
11	11 15 11	21 10 10	33 6 9	Female, coloured
12	10 15 0	22 8 0	33 3 0	Female, white
13	10 16 6	20 19 11	31 6 5	Female, coloured
14	5 17 6	25 4 6	31 2 0	Male, coloured
15	9 13 2	20 0 3	29 13 5	Female, coloured
16	5 5 0	16 4 2	21 9 2	Ditto
17	6 3 8	14 2 8	20 6 4	Female, white
18	1 18 0	15 12 10	17 10 10	Ditto

* This school was only open three quarters. For the sake of comparison the receipts are increased by one-third.

There are numerous other little schools, frequented by a somewhat high class of white children, and not under the rules of the Board of Education, where the remuneration of the teacher comes to less than the lowest of these totals. It is needless to say that they are conducted under the most dreary and discouraging conditions, and almost destitute of every necessary appliance. St. David's Island, with its population of about 500, has had no school for a year.

8. Neither of the two bodies of trustees (white and coloured), appointed under an Act of 1870 to administer the endowment of the Devonshire College, has as yet provided a building in which to carry on a Grammar School. But one of them has secured a site; and there is a small sum of money, raised about 1851 by the benevolent exertions of the Rev. W. C. Dowding, with a view to the revival of Bishop Berkeley's project, still in the hands of trustees in England, which will eventually, I trust, find its way to Bermuda, in aid of these schools.

9. The Report of the Registrar-General of births, deaths, and marriages, transmitted herewith, establishes among others the following facts:—

(1) A lower death-rate in both the white and the coloured population of Bermuda for 1874 than the average in England. It was: White, 20·39 per 1,000 souls; coloured, 22·12 per 1,000 souls. The average for England I take to be 22·4 per 1,000.

The total deaths were:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
White - - -	83	77	160
Coloured - - -	92	88	180

(2) A very remarkable number of persons attaining very advanced ages. For example:—

	White.		Coloured.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
80 years - -	—	2	1	1
84 „ - -	—	2		
86 „ - -	—	4		
87 „ - -	—	2	—	1
90 „ - -	1	1	1	
92 „ - -	—	—	2	
95 „ - -	—	—	—	1
96 „ - -	—	—	—	1

This in a population estimated at only 5,003 whites, and 8,134 coloured, is a proportion not exceeded in the most healthy countries.

(3) A general absence of febrile or zymotic disease, only 18 cases out of 340 deaths being recorded; but a prevalence of diseases of the digestive system, to which 82 deaths are attributed, or of the nervous system, which is charged with 60. I fear that the Registrar-General is right in connecting this with the large consumption of ardent spirits, which appears to have amounted to about 51,673 gallons. It is not easy to determine what proportion of this quantity is consumed by the army and navy, but the military canteens only imported 5,200 gallons of it. If we add to the adult civil male

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population, as in my Report for 1871, an average of 870 seamen and marines, the number of the troops and the dockyard establishment, we have an average consumption of 7·71 gallons for each adult male person.

Consumption of ardent spirits is not absolutely confined to adult persons, or to the male sex, but this appears less deceptive than including women and children in the divisor.

(4) A small proportion of illegitimate births, as compared with most colonies in which slavery existed. The numbers are :—

White children born out of wedlock, 12, being 5·42 per cent. of the whole.

Coloured children, 68, being 22·74 per cent. of the whole.

Still-born children are here included. These numbered 6 white and 20 coloured, but they are not counted in the 340 deaths.

The living births were :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
White - - -	118	97	215
Coloured - - -	142	137	279

10. The number of vessels taken on the marine slip at St. George's for repairs in the year ending 31st December, 1874, was as follows :—

British - - - - -	15
American - - - - -	3
Italian - - - - -	2
Austrian - - - - -	1
	21

Their total tonnage 6,200 tons. Three of the number were small steamers, one of them belonging to the Royal Engineer Department. Six of the number, amounting to 757 tons, were owned in Bermuda.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Carnarvon, (Signed) J. H. LEFROY.
&c. &c. &c.

BAHAMAS.

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No. 2.

No. 2.

Governor ROBINSON to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Nassau,
April 9, 1875.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of the Bahamas for the year 1874, and my Report thereon.

Finance.

2. My predecessor, in his Blue Book Report for 1873, expressed an opinion that the financial measures passed by the Assembly in 1872, had restored the sound financial condition of the Colony, and that

that body would not be again embarrassed by finding the annual expenditure in excess of the annual revenue.

3. These expectations have, I am sorry to say, not been realized, as will be seen from the annexed Return of Revenue and Expenditure for the last four years:—

	Revenue. £	*Expenditure.* £
1871 - -	42,729	41,882
1872 - -	37,574	38,836
*1873 - -	44,043	42,737
*1874 - -	35,034	36,627

And not only was the revenue of the past year insufficient to meet the current expenditure, as is shown in the preceding Table, but there were outstanding debts in addition, to the amount of 1,608*l.* due on warrants, as well as the balance of amounts voted by the Assembly for the service of 1874, for which provision has to be made this year.

4. In fact, the amount which will be required to equalize revenue and expenditure for the year 1875, supposing the average for the past five years is maintained, is no less a sum than 5,294*l.*, an amount which is equal to an eighth of the total average revenue.

5. It was also anticipated that a sum of about 2,000*l.* would be realized immediately by the increased duties levied on wine, spirits, and tobacco; but the total excess over last year's revenue from that source was less than 400*l.*

6. Sufficient time has not elapsed in which to test the actual increase which these additional duties will bring to the revenue, and as a large quantity of spirits was cleared from the Custom House when it was known that increased duties were about to be levied, it would, in my opinion, have been wiser to delay, for a year at least, the reduction of taxation, which was assented to in consideration of this anticipated increase, within the year, of the revenue from spirit duties.

7. To meet the serious deficiency in the revenue which has arisen from this overestimate, as well as from the great and general depression of trade throughout the Colony, I have been obliged to recommend additional taxation, viz.:—

A. The imposition of stamps upon cheques drawn upon the public bank at the following rates:—

1*d.* on cheques for sums under 25*l.*

2*d.* on cheques above 25*l.* and under 50*l.*

3*d.* on cheques above 50*l.* and under 100*l.*

4*d.* on all cheques above 100*l.*

8. I should have been glad if this duty could have been extended to receipts, bills of lading, &c., as it is a legitimate tax, costs nothing to collect, and has, although opposed at the outset, been fruitful of such good results in Hong Kong, the Straits Settlements, and other large Colonies; but I did not think that the present

* Exclusive of loans, &c.

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House of Assembly would adopt such a recommendation, and therefore the duty was limited to cheques.

9. No valid objection can possibly be urged against its imposition on cheques in this Colony, as the entire cost of the bank is levied on the general public, and those persons who are depositors have hitherto contributed no more to the support of the institution, which is of the greatest convenience to them, than the poorest tax-payer who lives from hand to mouth.

B. The levying of Harbour Light dues at the rate of 3*d.* per ton on all vessels (with certain recognized exceptions) arriving at the port of Nassau from ports without the limits of the Colony.

C. The reimposition of 10 per cent. on the amount of all import duties leviable and payable at the different revenue offices of the Colony.

10. It will be remembered that in 1873 my predecessor reduced these duties from 25 to 15 per cent. They are now about to be restored to the figure at which they originally stood, pending a revision of the existing tariff, which is most necessary.

11. It is, I believe, admitted that the general consumer is not likely to benefit much by a reduction of these duties from 25 to 15 per cent., and therefore the reimposition of the 10 per cent. will not greatly affect the community at large.

12. I have also requested the House of Assembly to take into consideration the revision of the spirit licences, in the hope that illicit dealing in liquors may be suppressed, and some tangible benefit may accrue to the revenue from a consolidation and amendment of the liquor laws.

13. A Committee of the House is now considering the matter, and I have called their particular attention to the question of granting commutation allowances to the troops in lieu of the present exemption from duties of articles consumed by them; any change in this direction will, I am convinced, be beneficial, and not only so on financial grounds: I am sanguine that the object I have in view will be attained.

14. Although the House of Assembly is naturally averse to taxation, especially to anything in the nature of direct taxation, I am convinced by the harmonious working of that body during the present session, and by the readiness with which they have entertained my suggestions, that they are fully alive to the necessity of placing the revenue on a more stable footing for the future, and that they also recognize the duty of making adequate and regular provision for all branches of the public service.

Trade.

15. The trade of the Colony has been much depressed throughout the year, and one or two failures of firms of some standing have recently occurred.

16. The deficiency, however, of the transactions of last year was anticipated by many. The stock of goods on hand in 1873 was very large, and consequently the importations during 1874 were small and considerably below the average.

17. The value of the imports in 1874 was 183,993*l.*, and the

value of exports 130,290*l.*, which, compared with the value of imports and exports for 1873, 226,306*l.* and 156,613*l.* respectively, shows a decrease of no less a sum than 42,313*l.* on imports, and 26,323*l.* on exports.

Pine Apple Trade.

18. The total number of pine apples exported to the United States and England in 1874 was 512,442 dozen, valued at 48,534*l.*

19. The pine apple manufactory at Nassau, which two years ago employed between 400 and 500 hands, was closed in 1873, and many persons were in consequence thrown out of employment. The value of the pine apples exported whole or preserved, in 1873, was 53,497*l.*

20. The cultivation of the fruit is still extending both in New Providence and the out-islands, but being of a perishable nature considerable risk is always incurred by the shipper of pine apples.

21. It frequently happens also that in consequence of there being insufficient means at hand of conveying the fruit when ripe to the American or English markets, it deteriorates greatly in value before it is shipped.

Sponge Trade.

22. This trade is still far from prosperous, though it is in rather a healthier state than it was a few years ago.

23. The sponges in the waters of the Colony are not numerous, and many of them are hardly worth the trouble and expense of fishing for. The supply therefore must be looked for from those banks which adjoin the coasts of Cuba. Since the Cuban insurrection the reefs on the coast of Cuba bearing sponge have not been accessible to the Bahamas sponging vessels.

24. In a despatch written to your Lordship at the commencement of this year I brought this important matter to the notice of your department, in the hope that the Spanish authorities might, by the action of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, be induced at the earliest opportunity to reopen a trade which is of such value to this community, and thus restore it in all respects to its former condition.

25. In 1872 the weight and value of sponge exported was 2,790 cwt., of the value of 18,831*l.* In 1873 it was 6,084 cwt., of the value of 32,938*l.*, and in 1874, 2,472 cwt., of the value of 15,554*l.*

26. I am informed that the sponge merchants are hardly able to meet the demands upon them.

Cave Earth or Guano.

27. The trade in this deposit, which is found in caves on the seashore or inland throughout these islands, is materially increasing, and large vessels are constantly arriving in ballast for this valuable fertilizer, which is sold in the American markets at prices varying from $35 to $60 per ton. I consider it a misfortune for the Colony that a monopoly for seven years in this valuable deposit was granted to an

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American firm, on payment of 100*l.* a year and 2*s.* per ton royalty, a price which is ridiculously small when the value obtained in the United States is remembered. When that monopoly was granted, however, the value of cave earth was not known. The trade has certainly been the means of putting rather more money into circulation, and thus it indirectly benefits to a small extent the Colonial revenue. The benefit would probably be greater if it was not the practice to pay a large proportion of the wages in kind, i. e. in that class of food consumed by the natives which is not liable to import duties. I am myself of opinion, and my opinion is shared by several members of my Council, that it would be wise to impose a small export duty on this valuable matter, which is being taken away in great quantities from these islands.

28. It is roughly calculated that there are at least 200,000 tons of this deposit in the Bahamas; there may be double that quantity, and as 30,000 tons are exported annually, a duty of 2*s.* per ton (which would scarcely, if at all, be felt) would yield a revenue of 3,000*l.* per annum, which I think the Legislature would be wise to secure for the benefit of the revenue. It is also to be regretted that the native farmers who can obtain this valuable fertilizer at a nominal price of $3 or $4 per ton have not yet realized the benefit which would doubtless accrue to them by an extensive use of it on their own land. It is my intention to make an effort to put an export duty on this article at an early date.

Salt Trade.

29. The trade in salt is still nearly paralyzed by the high impost duty levied in the United States, and the prospects of the lessees of the ponds has for some time been very discouraging.

30. Some years ago, large quantities of Bahama salt were exported to the United States, but the prohibitory duties imposed by the Government have had the effect of almost entirely excluding salt of Bahama manufacture from that market. In 1853 the duty on salt averaged 1½ cent per bushel. In 1865 the amount was increased to 12 cents, which is about 200 per cent. on the value of the article. Since then the duty has been lowered to 5½ cents, which is equal to about 100 per cent. ad valorem.

31. It may, I think, be reasonably expected that if the political changes, which seem imminent in the United States, come about, this duty may be materially lessened or perhaps abolished.

32. On the 24th December last, a vessel arrived at Inagua and took on board a cargo of fine salt for conveyance to Jersey, from whence it was to be transhipped to Canada on the opening of navigation in the spring. This is said to have been the first shipment of salt from the Colony to the Channel Islands, and it is hoped that a future and active trade may result from it.

33. I should also mention that in addition to possible changes in the Government of the United States which might affect this trade, there is a prospect of regular communication being opened between Montreal and this port, and if this connection is established, and the new regulations I have proposed are adopted by your Lordship, a fresh stimulus will most probably be given to this important branch

of industry, which has been in a languishing condition for so many years past.

34. The value of Bahama salt exported in 1874 was 6,184*l.* against 11,080*l.* in 1873.

Oranges.

35. During the past year 3,144,000 oranges were exported, valued at 5,474*l.*, being 1,652*l.* more than the value of oranges exported in 1873. Of bananas, 12,327 bunches, valued at 673*l.*, and about 658*l.* worth of grape fruit, shaddocks, lemons, limes, &c.

The Crown Fund.

36. During the year 1874 the expenditure of this fund was within the revenue, although the receipts were considerably less than was anticipated.

37. The revenue and expenditure for 1874 were as follows: Revenue, 1,256*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*; expenditure, 1,073*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*

The Crown Lands.

38. Acting on a general authority which was given to me by your Lordship, I have reduced the upset price of Crown lands from the amount at which it formerly stood, viz. 10*s.* an acre, to 5*s.*; and this reduction dates from the 1st January, 1875.

39. I have no doubt that the effect will be to bring more land into cultivation, and that the purchasers will thus have additional opportunities afforded to them of raising produce for consumption within the Colony as well as for export.

40. I shall carefully watch and report to your Lordship from time to time the result of this reduction.

41. The amount of Crown land sold in 1874 was 1,791 acres, and the amount during the first quarter of this year, 243 acres. The total value of that sold in 1874 was 1,359*l.* 1*s.*, and of that in the first quarter of the present year, 83*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* At the date of this last sale the reduction in price was only known in Nassau.

Telegraphic Communication.

42. There can be no doubt that the connection by wire of this Colony with Florida would be of great commercial advantage, and it would also, as pointed out by my predecessor in his Blue Book Report for 1873, be of indirect advantage to the Imperial Government. I need only therefore repeat that the Colony, which is prepared to spend 2,000*l.* a year on this project, cannot unaided carry it out, and that a lasting debt of gratitude would be imposed upon the community if the Home Government would assist in the establishment of telegraphic communication between Nassau and the neighbouring continent.

Legislation.

43. The two principal Government Acts which have been passed during the present session are: Firstly, one for the appropriation of certain casual revenues of the Crown. By this Act, which I have reserved, Her Majesty vests in the Assembly the right of controlling,

to a great extent, the appropriation of funds heretofore exclusively managed by Her Majesty and her representative in the Colony. This liberal concession is highly appreciated.

44. Secondly, an Act making predial larceny a felony punishable in respect of first offences by summary proceedings before a justice of the peace, with power to the justice of imposing imprisonment with hard labour for a term of not less than three months, and in case of second or subsequent offences by prosecution in the Supreme Criminal Court.

45. My attention was directed, immediately on my arrival in the Colony, to the increasing amount of predial larceny, both here and in the out-islands; and regarding that crime as a cruel hindrance to the industry of the small and honest planter, I did not hesitate to submit to the Legislature a measure more severe in its provisions than that which has hitherto been in force; feeling certain that it would have a deterrent and beneficial effect.

46. An Act has also been passed abolishing the Ecclesiastical Acts 6 Geo. IV., cap. 12, and 24 Vict., cap. 19, which enabled the Bishop to exercise jurisdiction over the clergy in the Bahamas.

47. A Bill to empower the Lord Bishop, the clergy, and the laity of the Church of England in the Bahamas to hold synods and for other purposes is still under the consideration of the Legislature. I have used my best endeavours to secure an acceptable settlement of the questions which have arisen out of the discussions on its provisions, and I hope that the Bill with the amendments passed in Council may become law. I consider that the House of Assembly is entitled to great credit for the liberal and impartial views which they have adopted in regard to the provisions and scope of this Bill.

Hospitals.

48. The New Providence Asylum, including the Civil Hospital, Workhouse and Lunatic Asylum, and Leper Hospital is, as stated by my predecessor, under the direct control of three Commissioners selected by the Goveruor. The buildings are well situated, but I do not think that their construction is suitable for the purposes for which they are used.

49. The cost of maintenance in 1873 was 2,570*l.*, and in 1874 2,226*l.* I am not myself satisfied with the system of poor relief in force in this Colony, and I have appointed a Commission to inquire into the subject, and to report fully upon these several institutions. I have also caused a Bill to be prepared making prospective arrangements for the abolition of the offices of paid superintendent and physician, and providing that when an opportunity offers, these several institutions should be placed under the charge of a medical superintendent.

50. The daily average of patients in the hospital during the year has been 68; the number of cases treated, 244; the number of deaths, 74. The daily average number of lunatics has been 22; of whom 36 have been cured within the year, 6 have died, and 7 have been discharged. The daily average number of lepers has been 6, and there has been 1 death.

The Gaol.

51. The number of prisoners in custody on the evening of December 31, 1873, was 63; of whom 53 were males and 10 were females.

52. The number of commitments during 1874 was greater by 43 than that for 1873, being 344 and 301 respectively, but owing to the trivial nature of the offences committed during 1874 and the short sentences imposed, the daily average number during last year was less than the daily average for 1873.

53. The following return for five years shows a steady and very satisfactory decrease in the daily average number of prisoners in confinement:—

Years.	Daily Average.
1870	97
1871	92
1872	88
1873	72
1874	67

54. The expenditure of the establishment, including the salaries of the keeper, chaplain, and all its subordinate officers, amounted in 1874 to 1991*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*

55. The sanitary state of the prison has been very satisfactory, and the customary good order and discipline of the establishment have been maintained throughout the year without the necessity of having recourse to undue severity.

Crime.

56. The state of crime in the Colony, as shown by the criminal proceedings in the General Court in 1874, is not on the increase, either as to the number or character of the offences brought for trial.

57. Although two charges of murder and several cases of arson appear in the list, it may be observed that one charge of murder was proved to be groundless, and in regard to the other, although death had been caused by an act of brutal violence, there was no evidence of premeditation and a conviction of manslaughter alone took place. Although this conviction took place in 1874, and must consequently be noted in the returns for that year, the offence actually occurred in 1873.

58. The charges of arson were three in number; in two of which the evidence was so totally insufficient that the parties were not placed on their trial; whilst in the third, at the close of the case for the Crown, an immediate acquittal took place.

59. Outside the above charges, the criminal cases for the year were confined principally to minor felonies and misdemeanours for unlawfully wounding.

General Remarks.

60. Notwithstanding an epidemic of dysentery which prevailed in the early part of last year, the general health of the Colony has been good, and the mortality returns will compare favourably with those of the principal cities in England.

61. The people of all classes have been quiet and orderly, and the

BAHAMAS.

criminal statistics of the Bahamas will bear favourable comparison with those of any of Her Majesty's possessions.

62. From a financial point of view, last year was an exceptionally bad one, and it is to be earnestly hoped that when the history of the present one is recorded it will be of a more cheerful and encouraging character.

63. Since my arrival in this Colony I have received valuable aid and cordial support from the small but efficient staff of public officers, and my Executive Council have always been ready to further any measure which I have proposed to them, and which might result in the benefit of the community at large.

I have &c.,

The Earl of Carnarvon, (Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.
&c. &c. &c.

TURKS ISLANDS.

TURKS ISLANDS.

No. 3.

No. 3.

Governor Sir WILLIAM GREY to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

King's House, Jamaica,
January 16, 1875.

MY LORD,

Dec. 16, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to forward for your Lordship's information the accompanying copy of the Turks and Caicos Islands Blue Book for 1873, and of the Commissioner's Report upon it, and also copy of a letter which explains the cause of the delay in submitting them.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Carnarvon, (Signed) WILLIAM GREY.
&c. &c. &c.

Mr. SMITH to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Commissioner's Office, Grand Turk,
December 16, 1874.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith in duplicate the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1873, together with my Report thereon.

2. I have to express my regret that the increased duties which devolve upon myself and some others of the public officers consequent upon the change in the Constitution of this settlement during the present year have prevented my forwarding the Blue Book for 1873 at an earlier period.

These difficulties, however, I have no doubt will be obviated for the future.

I have, &c.,

The Colonial Secretary, (Signed) D. T. SMITH,
&c. &c. &c. Commissioner.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of the TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS for the Year 1873.

Taxation.

A great diminution in taxation took place during the year 1873, by the abolition of all export duties from the 1st of March of that year. Other taxation remains the same as it was when reported on in 1872.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
1873 - - - - - - -	5,097	5	7
1872 - - - - - - -	10,864	18	1
Decrease for 1873 -	£5,767	12	6

The great falling off in the revenue for the year 1873 as compared with that of the previous year is to be attributed chiefly to the abolition of the export duty of ½*d.* per bushel on salt, as well as to the deficient quantity of that article exported; and to diminished imports, light duty, auction duty, fines and forfeitures, fees of office, spirit and wine licences, and other minor items of revenue.

The sources of revenue may be divided as follows:—

	1873.			1872.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Import duties - -	3,276	3	3	4,281	15	4
Export ditto - - -	265	6	2	3,818	7	0
Other sources, comprising Light duty, Auction duty, Fines and Forfeiture, &c. - -	1,555	16	2	2,764	15	9
	£5,097	5	7	10,864	8	1

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
1873 - - - - - -	7,971	5	2
1872 - - - - - - -	9,722	19	6
Decrease for 1873 -	£1,751	14	4

The reduction in the expenditure of 1873, amounting to 1,761*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, was in the following departments:

	£	s.	d.
Executive - - - - - -	43	15	0
Judicial - - - - - -	160	19	9
Financial - - - - - -	210	10	7
Ecclesiastical - - - - -	757	3	4
Education - - - - - -	546	6	8
Contingent and Accidental - - -	32	19	0
	£1,751	14	4

TURKS ISLANDS.

These reductions arose from the reduced salaries of the president's private secretary, the provisional judge, the assistant-receivers and warehouse keeper, the disendowment of the Episcopal Church, and withdrawal of pay to the Wesleyan and Baptist communions, the abolition of salaries to school teachers, and to incidental charges.

The excess of expenditure over revenue, amounting to 2,873*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* was reduced by a balance of 318*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* remaining at the close of the year 1872, and by the sum of 1,412*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* received in aid of the general revenue from the Crown funds, leaving a balance of 1,142*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* as "Liabilities incurred" and which have been met during the year 1874.

Crown Fund.

This fund, which is produced mainly from a royalty of 10 per centum on the value of all salt exported and payable as a commutation for grants in fee simple of the salinas, amounted in the year 1873 to 2,308*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* and which sum with the balance from the year of 1872 of 1,606*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* makes a total of 3,915*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* The expenditure of the fund was in public works, salaries and allowances, and miscellaneous expenditure, 1,178*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, and advanced in aid of the general revenue 1,412*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, leaving a balance of 1,324*l.* 10*s.*, which has been since appropriated by authority for general purposes of the year 1874.

VALUE OF IMPORTS.

	Value. £	s.	d.
1873	18,330	2	9
1872	31,881	18	3
Decrease for 1873	£13,551	15	6

SALT EXPORTED.

	Bushels.	Value. £	s.	d.
1873	1,526,506	22,226	14	4
1872	1,831,010	267,50	8	11
Decrease for 1873	304,504	£4,523	14	7

SHIPPING.

	No. of Vessels.	Tons Entered.
1873	344	55,789
1872	402	57,551
Decrease for 1873	58	1,762

Of the number of vessels entered during the year 1873, 13 were steam vessels of 10,217 tons; and in 1872 there were 6 steamers entered of 4,698 tons. All steam vessels are exempt from light duty.

Public Debt.

The public debt remains at the same amount as when last reported, namely 2,000*l.*

Public Works.

The principal public work executed during the year 1873 was repairing roads at Grand Turk, which had been seriously injured by the encroachment of the sea upon the sea-frontage road. This work, upon which was expended 239*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, caused an excess of expenditure of 50*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* above the amount estimated for repairs of roads.

Legislation.

There were eleven Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council during the year 1873, three of which were returned for re-enactment and the remaining eight received Her Majesty's gracious confirmation, of those which were assented to the following is a list:—

Ordinance No. 1 *of* 1873.

"To abolish all export duties within the Turks and Caicos Islands."

Ordinance No. 2 *of* 1873.

"To provide for communication by steam vessels between these Islands, Jamaica, and New York, in the United States of America."

Ordinance No. 3 *of* 1873.

"To abolish the salary of the rector of St. John and of certain other ecclesiastical officers within these Islands, and for other purposes."

Ordinance No. 5 *of* 1873.

"To disestablish and disendow the Church of England in the Turks and Caicos Islands."

Ordinance No. 8 *of* 1873.

"To regulate the offices and the duties and salaries thereof required under the expected annexation of the Turks and Caicos Islands to Jamaica."

Ordinance No. 9 *of* 1873.

"To provide for the appropriation of divers sums of money to be paid from the treasury of the said Islands for and towards defraying the contingent expenses of the said Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1874."

Ordinance No. 10 *of* 1873.

"To anthorize the appointment of marriage officers within the said Islands."

Ordinance No. 11 *of* 1873.

"To amend the Laws and Ordinances now in force within these Islands relative to damages done by cattle running loose, and other subjects connected therewith."

Proclamations.

There were seven Proclamations issued during the year 1873. Of these, two were for proroguing the Legislative Council; one, proclaiming the provisional assent of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief to

TURKS ISLANDS.

Ordinances Nos. 1, 2, and 3, of 1873; three, proclaiming Her Majesty's confirmation and allowance of Ordinances No. 5 of 1872, Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 5, of 1873; and a Proclamation by his Excellency Sir J. P. Grant, K.C.B., Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief, embodying Her Majesty's Order in Council of the 4th of August, 1873, for the annexation of the Turks and Caicos Islands to the Colony of Jamaica.

Pensions.

The amount for pensions which stood at the close of the year 1872 at 451*l.* 19*s.*, increased in 1873 to 790*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*, in consequence of pensions granted to the Rev. Joseph C. Astwood, on the disendowment of the Church of England in these Islands, and to Mr. John Bascome, warehouse keeper, Mr. St. George D. Tucker, assistant-receiver, and to Judge Duncombe on their retirement from office. But during the present year (1874) the pensions of Mr. Bascome and Mr. Garland, late assistant-receiver at Salt Cay, having from their deaths fallen in, a reduction of 205*l.* 4*s.* in the last-named sum has been effected.

Population.

The population of these Islands at the taking of the census in 1871 amounted to 4,723, and were classed as follows:—Whites, males 266, females 306, total 572. Coloured, males 2,008, females 2,143, total 4,151. During the year 1873 there were 167 births, 20 marriages, and 77 deaths, against 170 births, 34 marriages, and 95 deaths in 1872.

Education.

After the abolition of the public schools by Ordinance No. 6 of 1872, gratuities were granted to such teachers of private schools as consented to a governmental inspection and examination of their schools. Of this description of schools there were in 1873: at Grand Turk 2, at Salt Cay 2, and 3 at the Caicos Islands, who received at the close of that year a remuneration varying from 3*l.* to 35*l.*, according to the number and efficiency of the pupils. The whole amount expended for educational purposes during the year 1873 was 104*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* This system of granting aid to private schools is being carried out with better success in the present year.

Grants of Land.

There were nine grants of land issued in 1873. Of these, four were for town lots, four for surburban, and one for a plantation lot, all situated on Grand Turk, and comprising 44½ acres, and realizing in money 14*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*

Gaols and Prisoners.

The expense incurred for officers' salaries and maintenance of prisoners during the year 1873 amounted to 546*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.* against 531*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* in 1872. There were 98 persons committed to the common gaol at Grand Turk and 11 to the lockup at Cockburn Harbour, East Caicos, making a total of 109 in 1873, and 69 committed in 1872, all to the common gaol. The sanitary state of the gaol in 1873 was generally good, and no deaths occurred therein.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the police during the year 1873 was 287. Of these offences 24 cases were dismissed, 259 resulted in summary convictions, and 4 persons were committed for trial in the Supreme Court and convicted. The convictions contrast with the three preceding years as follows:—For 1872, summary 243; for 1871, 253; for 1870, 253. In the Supreme Court, for 1872, 11; for 1871, 5; for 1870, 7. Of the summary convictions for 1873, 51 were for offences against the person, 29 for praedial larceny, 38 for offences against property other than praedial larceny, and 169 for other offences. The convictions in the Supreme Court were two for offences against the person, and 3 for offences against property other than praedial larceny.

Poors' House and Hospital.

At the beginning of the year 1873 there were 12 inmates in the establishment and 19 admitted during the year, making a total of 31 persons obtaining relief. There were also six paupers who received outdoor relief, costing 26*l.* 8*s.* The whole expenditure of the establishment for the year, including the salaries of the medical officer and staff, amounted to 455*l.* 8*s.* The average daily cost of each inmate was at the rate of 1*s.* 6¾*d.* per diem and 2⅞*d.* for each pauper receiving outdoor relief.

In the hospital or infirmary connected with the poor's house, there were three inmates at the beginning of the year 1873, and 28 admitted during the year. Of this number 10 were cured, 4 relieved, 2 not improved, and 8 died.

General Remarks.

The condition of these Islands during the year 1873 showed them to be in a less prosperous state than they were in the previous year. Both imports and exports were diminished. The chief staple export, salt, fell short in quantity by 304,504 bushels, and in value 4,523*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*, and the revenue suffered materially. This latter circumstance, however, was to be anticipated in consequence of the abolition of the export duty on salt in the early part of the year. But as one great step towards financial improvement in the future was the reduction in the expenditure and which amounted to 1,751*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, thus making a favourable set off against the loss in revenue.

The contemplated change in the constitution of the Government of these Islands under Ordinance No. 8 of 1873, and by which they became annexed to the Colony of Jamaica, took place on the 1st of January, 1874, and with every reason to believe, from nearly twelve months' experience, with great advantage to the settlement. The saving of expenditure in the Executive and Colonial Secretary's departments alone amount to 1,250*l.*

With the exception of some cases of fever of not a very severe type at the Blue Hills District, Caicos, both in the past and present year, these Islands generally have been healthy during those periods.

I have, &c.,

The Colonial Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) D. T. SMITH,
Commissioner.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

No. 4.

No. 4.

Lieut.-Governor MUNDY, C.M.G., to Governor Sir WM. GREY, K.C.S.I.

Government House, Belize,
April 6, 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1874, and to make the following Report thereon.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue of 1874 was 43,722*l.*, and the expenditure was 40,063*l.* Excess of revenue over expenditure, 3,659*l.*

3. The decrease on the previous year's revenue was 8,223*l.*, but it was in excess of that of 1872 by 5,003*l.*; and of that of 1871 by 842*l.*

4. The heads under which there has been a reduction in receipts are: import dues under Ordinance No. 22, 1872, 21,364*l.* 8*s.* as compared with 27,071*l.* in 1873; excise duties, 4,555*l.* 19*s.*, against 4,755*l.* 13*s.* in 1873; taxes on dogs, horses, drays, &c., spirit licences, 1,437*l.*, against 1,717*l.* in 1873.

5. The 1 per cent. duty imposed by 16 Vic. chap. 4, produced 6,138*l.*, as compared with 6,938*l.* in 1873.

6. The same amount of duty imposed by Act, 27 Vic. chap. 11, produced 1,783*l.* 19*s.*, as compared with 2,366*l.* 3*s.* in 1873; land sales and rents, 1,142*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*, as compared with 1,583*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* in 1873.

7. The expenditure exceeded that of 1873 by 5,657*l.*, and arose from a larger amount being required for the repairs of public buildings, the establishment of quarantine, and the erection of buildings for that purpose at Moho Kaye, the extension of vaccination to the southern portion of the Colony, extensive repairs to lighthouses, large sums required for payment of drawbacks on goods in transit, the completion of the public hospital, the works of defence at Orange Walk, and the cost of a steam launch for the purpose of keeping open the communication with the military posts at Orange Walk and Corozal.

Assets and Liabilities.

8. On the 31st December last, the assets of the Colony amounted to 38,963*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*, and its liabilities to 21,396*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* The excess of assets over liabilities being therefore 17,566*l.* 8*s.*

Public Debt.

9. The Immigration Loan raised under Local Act, 27 Vic. chap. 14, amounted to 16,550*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*, of which sum 10,200*l.* has been repaid, and on the 31st December last there existed a balance of 6,649*l.* 17*s.*;

to the credit of the Sinking Fund for the repayment of principal and interest.

10. The South of Belize Improvement Loan was raised under Special Local Act, 27 Vic. chap. 11, to the amount of 19,800*l.*, of which 10,759*l.* 4*s.* has been repaid. On the 31st December last this debt amounted to 9,040*l.* 16*s.*; the sum of 1,783*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* was collected in 1874 towards the Sinking Fund, and the amount of interest on the loan paid was 539*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*

11. Towards the liquidation of the debt to the War Department, the usual amount of 5,000*l.* in quarterly payments has been regularly paid within the year; but the Imperial claim stood on the 31st December last at 8,033*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, as compared with 7,651*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* in 1873.

Military Expenditure.

12. The total amount of the sum expended by Great Britain for its military protection of British Honduras was 13,833*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*, the Colony paying 5,000*l.* of this amount. Besides this contribution, the Colonial Treasury disbursed 5,663*l.* during 1874 for military purposes connected with the defence of the northern frontier; the outlay, including cost and materials for the completion of Fort Cairns, at Orange Walk, was 1,364*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* The pay of carpenters, masons, and other workmen, 1,502*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* The erection of tanks, cost of intrenching tools and petty expenses, 123*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*; salary of acting engineer, 273*l.* 15*s.* The cost of the steam launch was (including freight and insurance) 2,339*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

Public Works.

13. The largest item of expenditure under this head, in 1874, was the public hospital, 870*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* This fine building of concrete is now completed, and the old wooden building is in course of demolition.

14. The remaining items are for repairs to public buildings, such as Government House, gaol, public tanks, powder magazine, and lighthouses, amounting in the whole to 686*l.* Roads, streets, bridges, in Belize and the country, 214*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*; the construction of a workshop, 58*l.*; the removal of water-pipes from Tillet's Pond to the Old River, 80*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*

15. There are several important works reserved for early consideration; a new lunatic asylum being the most urgent. The Court House will require rebuilding, and the present Government House will have to be rebuilt before many years elapse. There are also many and extensive repairs, alterations, and enlargements that will be required to buildings both in Belize, Corozal, and other outstations.

Legislation.

16. There were thirty Ordinances enacted in the Session of 1874.

Pensions.

17. The amount paid under this head for 1874 was 590*l.* 16*s.*

Education.

18. There are fourteen schools receiving Government aid in the Colony: 1 Anglican; 3 Roman Catholic; 7 Wesleyan; 1 Presbyterian; 2 Baptist.

19. The number of scholars returned is 992 boys and 783 girls, and the average daily attendance is 1,070. The amount expended was 1,490*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, of which the sum of 1,019*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* was derived from the Government grant, and 282*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.* from school fees.

Imports and Exports.

20. The value of the year's imports was 178,397*l.* 16*s.*, being a decrease of 38,216*l.* on that of 1873.

21. The value of the exports was 240,628*l.* 4*s.*, being an increase of 23,636*l.* on 1873.

Shipping.

22. There were 477 vessels entered at the Port of Belize as compared with 371 in 1873. Of the arrivals, 297 brought cargo, and 82 came in ballast.

23. The vessels cleared at Belize were 382 in number; of these 344 took cargoes, and 38 left in ballast. This gave an increase over 1873 of 37 vessels with cargoes.

Agriculture.

24. In the Northern District of the Colony the return for 1874 shows 1,241½ acres under cultivation in sugar cane, 1,704 acres in Indian corn, 95 acres in rice, and 188 acres in other crops and fruit trees.

Produce.

1,134,012 lbs. of sugar; 33,094 gallons of rum; 40,571 bushels of Indian corn; 1,339 bushels of rice.

25. In the North-West District, 819 acres were in sugar cane, 4,994 acres in Indian corn, 175 acres in rice, and 158 acres in other crops.

Produce.

1,500,000 lbs. of sugar; 2,430 gallons of rum; 19,659 bushels of Indian corn; 1,555 bushels of rice.

26. In the Southern District, 1,071 acres were in sugar, 13 acres in Indian corn, and 18 acres in coffee and other crops.

Produce.

1,898,982 lbs. of sugar; 594 gallons of rum.

There are 20,250 cocoa-nut trees in this district; and on the Eastern and Southern Kayes there are many thousands of those useful palms which bear profusely, the fruit being principally exported to Great Britain and the United States, affording a large profit to the owners.

27. In the Central or Belize District large quantities of cattle, hogs, poultry, &c., are kept on the numerous "Banks" (river settlements) of the rivers Belize, Sibien, and Northern. Corn is grown and fruit trees abound; but such is the innate indolence of the inhabitants, that but little of the produce finds its way to the Belize market.

Grants of Land.

28. There were 7 grants of land in Belize and 52 in North Staun Creek, amounting on the whole to 6¾ acres, the average price being 8*l.* per acre. In the country districts there were 12 grants, amounting on the whole to 535 acres, the average price being 6*s.* per acre. With the exception of one free grant to the descendant of a pensioner, all these lots were acquired by purchase.

29. There are numerous squatters on the banks of the various rivers. These places will be gradually visited by the Surveyor-General, and the present possessors will have the option of purchasing at public auction. The balance of revenue in favour of the Department at the close of the year was 667*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*

Gaols and Prisoners.

30. There were committed to the common gaol, Belize, and the districts prisons, Corozal, Orange Walk, and All Pines, during the year 1874, 759 men, 13 women, and 5 juveniles. One death occurred in the Belize gaol from blood poisoning. No deaths in the district prisons. The total cost of the four prisons was 2,062*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*

Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, and Poorhouse.

31. There were 148 males and 7 females admitted to the public hospital of Belize during the year 1874; 126 males were discharged cured, 19 died; 5 females were discharged and 2 died.

32. There were 18 patients, 12 males and 6 females, under treatment in the lunatic asylum during the year 1874. Two females were admitted, one of whom was discharged cured. One male died from apoplexy.

33. There were 6 men and 2 women, old and indigent paupers, inmates of the poorhouse on the 31st December last. There were also 24 indigent persons receiving outdoor relief at the rate of 2*s.* per week.

Concluding Remarks.

34. With the exception of malarious fever breaking out at Corozal, owing to the large amount of vegetable deposit that was brought down by the New River during the very exceptional floods of 1874, the Colony has been perfectly healthy. The continuance throughout the year of epidemic small-pox at Kingston, Jamaica, rendered it necessary to establish a very strict quarantine. The passengers by the monthly mail steamer were comfortably accommodated at the quarantine station at Moho Kaye, where buildings had been erected at considerable cost to the Colony. These precautions have, under

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Divine Providence, been the means of preventing that disease, so fearful in its effects on the negro and coloured population, from spreading in British Honduras.

35. The Indian frontier both to the north and north-west has been free from any alarms during the past year.

36. The completion of Fort Cairns, at Orange Walk, and the occupancy of the barracks therein, erected by the three officers and seventy men of the Second West India Regiment, has given much confidence to the mixed population of that district. An outwork is in course of erection, which will contain the court-room, gaol, police barracks for the scouts, and magistrates' quarters, and will command one of the approaches to the small town and the river landing place, and will, when completed, secure Orange Walk from any fear of those marauding forays which the Icaïche Indians have so often succeeded in effecting during past years.

37. The new steam launch, imported from England at great outlay to the Colony, is now established, to work periodically between Belize, Corozal, and Orange Walk, keeping up communication with the frontier at all seasons of the year. The little steamer is hardly adapted for carrying troops, being far too small for that purpose, but in an emergency a good reinforcement of men might be towed up the rivers to any threatened position.

38. As it has been deemed expedient by the military authorities that the head-quarters of the troops in British Honduras should be at Corozal, the Colony will have to incur considerable expense in erecting barracks at that station, which will be surrounded by an earthwork.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT M. MUNDY.

Sir William Grey, K.C.S.I.,
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH GUIANA.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 5.

No. 5.

Governor LONGDEN, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Georgetown,
December 14, 1874.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of British Guiana for 1873.

2. The delay in forwarding these returns is owing to various causes. I am informed by the Assistant Government Secretary that some of the information cannot be completed until after the first quarter, and that it not unfrequently happens that returns when received have to be sent back for correction. In August last I was informed by Mr. C. P. Austin that the returns had all been sent in, and the time which has elapsed since that date has been occupied in getting the Blue Book printed.

3. I was not in the Colony during any part of the year to which these returns relate, and I should therefore have asked Mr. Young, the Government Secretary, to prepare a Report, but he himself only arrived in the Colony last May. Under these somewhat peculiar circumstances, I trust your Lordship will excuse my limiting this Report to a few of the most prominent facts disclosed in these returns.

Taxation.

4. The principal change made in the taxation of the Colony was the reduction of the ad valorem import duties on all articles not specially enumerated in the Schedule of Duties now exempted from duty, from 10 per cent. to 5 per cent. This sweeping reduction came into operation on the 1st of July, 1873. The admission of rice free of duty, first granted in 1872, was continued in 1873, and has been again renewed. These reductions have of course affected the amount of the revenue to a considerable extent. It may be expected in future years that the reduction of the ad valorem duties will be to some extent compensated for by an increased consumption of dutiable articles, and perhaps also by a better collection of the revenue, since a 10 per cent. duty offered much temptation to evade it by smuggling. The only other important change in the taxation was the re-imposition of the old duty of 2*s.* 1*d.* per cwt. on salt fish. The duty on this article was reduced by the Combined Court in 1872 from 2*s.* 1*d.* to 2½*d.* per cwt., and was restored to the old rate last year. The temporary reduction of the duty increased in some degree the importation, as will be seen by the following comparison of the quantities of salt fish imported in each of the four last years :—

In 1870	77,241	quintals.
1871	72,846	,,
1872	92,741	,,
1873	87,462	,,

As it is not desirable to increase the use of salt fish as the diet of the people, I do not regret that the Combined Court re-imposed the old duty—a duty which contributed a considerable sum to the revenue without imposing too heavy a burden on the consumer.

Finances.

5. The revenue of 1873 amounted to 361,931*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* This, though exceeding the estimate, was less than the average revenue of the three preceding years by 8,575*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* This loss of revenue is the direct result of the reduction of the import duties. It is noticeable that a sum of no less than 162,677*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, equivalent to nearly one-half of the revenue, was raised by the duties on, and licences to sell, wines and spirits.

6. The revenue was insufficient to cover the expenditure, which amounted to 390,355*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*, being an excess of 28,424*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, which was met from the balances in the Treasury remaining from 1872. The expenditure was nearly the same as that of 1872, differing from it only by 863*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* But in the details of the expen-

BRITISH GUIANA.

diture there were large differences; the expenditure on immigration was increased by no less than 30,850*l.*, partly in consequence of the increased number of immigrants introduced, and partly by the charges thrown upon the general revenue by the Ordinance, No. 7, of 1873, which transferred the payment of the entire immigration medical staff from the planters to the Government. There was also a larger expenditure than usual in the Public Works Department, in which the sums expended amounted to 47,886*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* Nearly a fourth part of this sum (9,069*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*) was spent on the sea-dams and groynes which protect Georgetown from the inroads of the sea.

Local Revenues.

7. The revenues of the municipality of Georgetown amounted to 32,559*l.* Of this sum 19,467*l.* was raised by house rates; 3,479*l.* by market rents and tolls, and 2,971*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* by water rates. The sum of 2,083*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* was, according to the usual practice, paid to the corporation by the Government as a composition for rates on public buildings. The remainder of the revenue was received in small sums, which are explained at length in the Blue Book. The expenditure includes the cost of macadamizing the streets, lighting the town with gas, maintaining the waterworks, and watering the streets in dry weather, the interest on the city debt, and the redemption of bonds when due. The total amount of the city debt, which is guaranteed by the Colonial Government, is 72,730*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*

8. The revenue of the town of New Amsterdam amounted last year to 6,214*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*, and the expenditure to 6,232*l.* 12*s.* This town has also incurred a debt of 6,250*l.* for the construction of works for supplying the town with water. The work is not yet completed, and a further loan will be required, and has been authorized.

9. Besides the revenue of these two towns, large local revenues are raised annually in the principal villages, under the authority of different ordinances, to pay for keeping up their roads, dams, trenches, and kokers, and for sanitary and other purposes. No returns of these village revenues are given in this Blue Book, but I shall cause such a return to be inserted in the Blue Book for 1874. Many of these villages have, from time to time, borrowed money of the Colonial Government for their improvement. These loans amount in the aggregate to 20,510*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, of which 4,313*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* has been repaid, leaving 16,196*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.* due on the capital, besides large arrears of interest, which in most cases has not been paid at all, as shown in the enclosed return. It is doubtful whether these loans can be wholly repaid within any moderate time, but I am very decidedly of opinion that it would be just and proper to exact regularly, for the future, at least the interest agreed to be paid when these sums were borrowed. The villages are inhabited by Africans, Portuguese, Chinese, Coolies, and Creoles of this Colony and of the West Indies. Among such a mixed population it is desirable to inculcate and encourage a spirit of self-help, instead of that helpless dependence on external aid which is too characteristic of the West Indian peasantry. And it is, above all, necessary to avoid every act, and to suffer no omission, which may tend to weaken in our villagers the

sense of common honesty in fulfilling their obligations. In most of the villages the money was lent for the purpose of enabling them to drain their lands more effectually for the purposes of peasant cultivation, by which pursuit a good livelihood and money to spare may easily be earned by industrious men. The exaction by the Government of interest for the money so lent, and gradual repayment of the capital, will not be felt by the industrious men; but the idle man must either work or he will lose his land. And in a Colony so peculiarly situated as this, where every man owning land has a duty to perform to the land by keeping his drains open and his dams in order, it is not expedient that any man who will not work sufficiently to pay his debts should retain the land, for such a man is almost sure to neglect his drains and dams, and thus cause injury not only to his own land, but to his neighbour's.

Public Debt.

10. The general financial position of the Colony is not unsatisfactory. Provision has been made for paying off the last instalment of the money borrowed in 1852 for railway and immigration purposes. The moneys borrowed for public works in 1854 and 1859 have been repaid. Provision has also been made for the payment of the sums, amounting to 30,800*l.* and 10,400*l.*, respectively borrowed in 1863 and 1864 for public works and sea defences, as soon as the bonds fall due. There is a further debt of 27,800*l.* borrowed for public works in 1869, the sinking fund of which amounts at present to 2,120*l.* Besides these debts there are two sums of 12,500*l.* and 3,200*l.*, which were raised to make loans for the improvement of villages. These sums are, according to law, to be repaid to the Treasury in future years out of the village rates. The sum of 13,403*l.* has been invested by the Colonial Government to meet the repayment of these loans. Finally, there is a sum of 1,875*l.*, borrowed to lend to the Roman Catholic church for the completion of their cathedral in Georgetown, which is secured on the endowments of the church. The whole outstanding amount of the loans borrowed directly by the Colony, excluding the amounts in the sinking fund and the advance to the Roman Catholic church, is 28,177*l.*

11. Besides these direct debts, the Colony has guaranteed the amounts which, as I have already stated, have been borrowed by the municipalities of Georgetown and New Amsterdam, amounting together to 78,980*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*

12. The Colony has likewise guaranteed immigration bonds, to the amount of 259,400*l.*, issued to raise money to pay the immediate costs of the immigration from India, which are secured on the estates. These bonds are issued for five years, and are redeemable from the indenture fees annually received from the Coolie employers in pursuance of the Immigration Ordinance. The interest on these bonds has been recently reduced from 6 to 5 per eent.

Population.

13. The population of the Colony is given from the census of 1871 at 193,491. Since that year there has been a considerable

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addition to the population by immigration from India, China, Barbados, and other places, and the Registrar-General estimates that the population number at present 211,011. There has been no considerable natural increase, the registered births being little in excess of the deaths. This is readily accounted for by the great excess in the number of men of fifteen years of age and upwards over that of women of fifteen years and upwards disclosed by the census of 1871. This disparity of the sexes in adult life had gone on increasing, and of course finds a natural expression in reducing the proportion which the birth-rate should, where the peasantry are in a prosperous condition, bear to the death-rate.

14. The death-rate for the whole population appears, from the Registrar-General's Report, to have averaged 34·50 in the thousand during the past four years. This rate is very high, but not higher, I think, than might have been anticipated from the peculiarly unfavourable sanitary condition of the country. Much of the population, perhaps I should more correctly say most of the population, are massed together upon the shores of the ocean, or upon the banks of rivers, where the land is low and swampy. Many districts lie three or four feet below high-water mark, the sea being dammed out by strong dykes. The drainage of these low-lying districts is very imperfect, and their inhabitants frequently suffer from the fevers engendered by malaria. The rate of mortality in different districts varies exceedingly, ranging from 6 in a thousand to 58 in a thousand. The cities of Georgetown and New Amsterdam present the heaviest mortality. Part of this may no doubt be ascribed to the presence in these towns of large public hospitals and asylums receiving patients from the country, but the deduction to be made on this account will not seriously diminish the death-rate. I subjoin a Table showing the population, number of deaths, and rate of mortality in the different districts of the Colony for the two years 1872 and 1873.

Districts.	Population by Census of 1871.	Mortality of 1872.		Mortality of 1873.	
		No. of Deaths.	Rate per Mil.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per Mil.
1. Berbice West Bank and Upper River	2,656	16	6	16	6
2. Upper Demerary River	11,522	160	13	200	17
3. Berbice West Coast	7,726	186	24	251	32
4. East Bank Demerary River	13,501	373	27	401	29
5. East Coast Demerary	32,008	939	29	859	26
6. Essequibo, Arabian Coast	22,647	763	33	682	30
7. Berbice East Bank	6,789	241	35	261	38
8. East Coast Berbice, Canje, and Corentyn	13,047	479	36	371	28
9. Essequibo Islands and River	13,328	529	39	613	45
10. Mahaicony Coast	6,270	267	42	228	36
11. Demerary West Coast	23,741	1,279	53	1,166	49
12. Georgetown, City of	34,819	1,802	51	1,894	54
13. New Amsterdam	5,437	320	58	303	55
Total	193,491	7,354	38	7,245	37

Trade.

15. Both the imports and exports of the year 1873 show a decline as compared with those of 1872. The imports show a decline of nearly one-eighth, the exports of one-tenth. The Blue Book of 1872 records an export of 89,022⅙ hogsheads of sugar, valued at 1,958,487*l.*, being at the rate of 22*l.* per hogshead. The Blue Book of 1873 records an export of 95,304 hogsheads, valued at 1,620,168*l.*, being at the rate of only 17*l.* per hogshead. The decline in value of the staple export of the Colony, notwithstanding the increased production, fully accounts for the decline in its trade. The dependence of the Colony on the quantity and value of its yield of sugar and other produce of the cane is best illustrated by a comparison of the exports given in the enclosed Tables:—

The exports of sugar, rum, and molasses in 1873 were valued at - - - -	£2,031,708 6 0
The exports of all other produce, including re-exportation of imported articles, were valued at - - - - -	£185,724 1 0

Conclusion.

16. I ask your Lordship's permission to conclude my brief remarks here. It is not that I undervalue the importance of the many subjects I have omitted to notice. On the contrary, I so fully appreciate their importance that I feel my inability to report on questions which require a personal knowledge of the Colony to treat satisfactorily. I had no such knowledge of the Colony in 1873, and there are no remarks that I could offer which would not be more appropriately deferred to the Report on the Blue Book for 1874.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Carnarvon, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. R. LONGDEN, Governor.

SIR, Georgetown, August 6, 1874.

My illness since November last will, I hope, be a sufficient excuse for my not having ere this sent in the following Report for last year.

In glanciug over the return for 1873, it will be seen that there is very little difference with that of 1872 with regard to the different diseases, their respective numbers, and the number of patients admitted. There was in 1873 a daily average of fifteen more than in 1872, the percentage of mortality the same for each year. In 1873, as in 1872, the wards were at several periods much overcrowded, principally when the immigrant vessels from India were arriving. It will be seen that in 1872 there were no cases of gonorrhœa admitted, whilst in 1873 forty-nine persons suffering from this disease were allowed admission. This came from my having in 1872 given orders not to receive in hospital cases of this kind; but finding in 1873 that many persons who had been refused admission neglected themselves so much, and became so dreadfully diseased, I took in as in-door patients some of the worst cases. Syphilitic diseases are much on the increase. I attribute this increase a great deal to the numbers of Barbadians who have for the last few years immigrated to this Colony.

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Whether these immigrants left their native country to avoid the penalties of the Contagious Disease Act lately brought into force in Barbados, I cannot say; but that the disease increased on their arrival there can be no doubt. The cases which present themselves at the hospital are of the worst form and nature, and in most cases of very long standing. The numbers of out-door patients in 1873 was 11,564, showing a very great increase on the former years. Of these 11,564, 531 cases were suffering from syphilitic diseases, and of these last 223 were Barbadians: a very large number when the proportion of these people to the general population is taken into consideration. I would take this opportunity of strongly recommending to his Excellency the adoption of the Contagious Disease Act in this Colony. It has had a very good effect in Barbados, and, if I am not misinformed, has done much good in Trinidad. A separate institution, a lock hospital, would be required, and not a separate ward in the general hospital, as in Trinidad.

I would also bring to his Excellency's notice the unsatisfactory way in which parties holding foreign diplomas of medicine or surgery are licensed to practise in the Colony. There is no law regulating the granting of these licences. The licensing of those holding these diplomas is based solely on the report of the Colonial Surgeon-General, stating that the party thus holding a diploma is entitled to his Excellency's licence to practise in the Colony. The Surgeon-General is guided in his recommendation by the custom which formerly existed, but now obsolete, of recognizing diplomas from the principal Universities in Europe. In a conversation I had a few days ago with his Excellency, he kindly explained to me the manner of proceeding in Trinidad with reference to foreign diplomas. I think an Act similar to the one in force in Trinidad would meet the difficulty we now labour under.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ET. A. MAUGET, M.D.,
Colonial Surgeon-General.

The Hon. W. A. G. Young,
Government Secretary.

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No. 6.

No. 6.

Lieut.-Governor FREELING, C.M.G., to Governor RAWSON, C.B.

Government House,
March 23, 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1874, together with the following Report thereon.

Revenue.

There was no alteration in the taxes.

The revenue amounted to 23,403*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, being a decrease from that of 1873 of 2,078*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

The actual receipts, irrespective of loans contracted during the

year to the extent of 1,500*l.*, were 21,903*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, showing a decrease of 3,578*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

The decrease in the revenue is chiefly on imports, owing partly to a large emigration to Trinidad, partly to the stores being overstocked at the end of 1873, and partly to merchants availing themselves of the cargo steamer from England to obtain goods in small quantities only for immediate requirements.

The revenue was made up as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	8,628	8	6
Tonnage	584	6	1
Excise	4,422	2	8
Licences	1,856	4	0
Fees and Fines	2,061	3	8
Post Office	295	3	5
Assessed Taxes	2,701	16	10
Sales of Escheated properties and Government Lands and Buildings	1,009	5	8
Loans	1,500	0	0
Miscellaneous	344	19	0
	£23,403	9	10

Expenditure.

The expenditure amounted to 25,729*l.* 12*s* 9*d.*, and shows a decrease of 1,495*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* as compared with that of 1873.

This decrease is principally owing to the falling off in the revenue, which necessitated a total stop to expenditure on works and buildings, however urgently required.

There remained at the end of the year but 376*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* to go towards outstanding claims, amounting to 1,445*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*

The expenditure was made up as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Civil	4,086	14	10
Judicial	3,944	10	0
Ecclesiastical	1,981	13	4
Legislative	638	0	0
Education	1,243	8	4
Sanitary and Poor Relief	3,473	3	7
Police and Gaols	3,050	4	6
Roads and Works	4,893	7	0
Inland Post	310	5	8
Revision and Compilation of Laws	340	0	0
Loan and Interest from Water Fund re-funded	515	0	0
Miscellaneous	1,253	5	6
	£25,729	12	9

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REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF LOCAL REVENUES AND SPECIAL FUNDS.

Funds.	Revenue.						Expenditure.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Immigration -	Balance (1st Jan., 1874)	1,663	3	2						
	Receipts (Dec., 1874)	3,680	9	2						
					5,343	12	4	4,999	1	9
Water - - -	Balance (1st Jan., 1874)	331	10	4						
	Receipts (Dec., 1874)	2,656	10	5						
					2,988	6	9	547	18	1
Harbour - -	Balance (1st Jan., 1874)	165	7	4						
	Receipts (Dec., 1874)	90	7	5						
					255	14	9			
Education - -	Balance (1st Jan., 1874)	441	6	6						
	Receipts (Dec., 1874)	113	12	7						
					554	19	1	335	13	10
Public Lands -	Balance (1st Jan., 1874)	144	17	9						
	Receipts (Dec., 1874)	305	16	10						
					450	14	7	345	18	1
Post Office - -	Balance (1st Jan., 1874)	10	0	7						
	Receipts (Dec., 1874)	1,637	6	10						
					1,697	7	5	1,679	0	6
Street - -	Balance (1st Jan., 1874)	156	0	4						
	Receipts (Dec., 1874)	290	5	9						
					446	6	1	333	5	8
Colony Hospital -	Balance (1st Jan., 1874)	80	4	10						
	Receipts (Dec., 1874)	1,329	12	6						
					1,409	17	4	1,271	6	9
Port of Grenville	Balance (1st Jan., 1874)	129	6	0						
	Receipts (Dec., 1874)	458	12	9						
					587	18	9	489	3	4

Public Debt.

The Public Debt of this Colony stood at 8,000*l.* on December 31, viz. 700*l.* to the Rock Life Assurance Company, of which the amount of stock to the credit of the Sinking Fund was 7,425*l.*; 300*l.* to the Education, and 200*l.* to the Public Lands Funds of the Colony; and 500*l.* to Mr. Louis Ferdinand Marrast.

Of these three latter sums, the first two, amounting to 500*l.*, have to be paid on the 31st instant, and the last 500*l.*, being the first instalment of a loan of 2,000*l.*, has to be paid with interest of 6 per cent. on December 31, 1876.

Works and Buildings.

No new works were undertaken during the year. The macadamizing of the principal roads throughout the Colony is being continued. Blake's stone-crusher continues to work well, but in consequence of the frequent illness of the engineer in charge and his eventually being obliged to be discharged, comparatively but a small amount of work has been done. An efficient driver has, however, recently been secured, and the machine is again at work.

The extensive repair to the Court House of St. George was completed early in the year, and some repairs were effected to the following buildings: Roman Catholic Church, St. David Court House, St. David's School House, St. David's, and Grand Etang Station.

Legislation.

The past year has been eventful in a legislative point of view; law reform was much needed and a revision and consolidation of the provisions of many Acts imperatively demanded. In many instances it was impossible to procure copies of various local enactments, a state of things reflecting discredit on the Colony, and manifestly unfair to public officers who were thus left in ignorance of their duties and responsibilities. In December, 1872, an Act was passed to provide for the compilation and publication of the laws; the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Clerk of Assembly were appointed Commissioners, and their labours were brought to a close last year: one hundred and seventeen Acts will be totally, and nine partially, repealed.

On eleven of the Acts which came into operation in 1873, I reported in my last Blue Book Report; those which now call for special comment are as follows:

"An Act to facilitate the Recovery of Petty Debts."

This law confers on the respective police magistrates an exclusive jurisdiction in amounts not exceeding 4*l.*; a limited period of imprisonment in default of real or personal estate to satisfy a judgment is provided, and also a right of appeal to the Supreme Court. The numerous cases which have been adjudicated under this law is satisfactory proof of its usefulness and appreciation by the public. Formerly small debts were frequently abandoned, the long distance from the farther parishes and the Island of Carriacou to St. George's and the expenses incident to such journeys rendered a recourse to the Court of Complaints almost prohibitory; now, however, the creditor can have his remedy in every parish, and although the costs are low, yet the revenue reaps greater advantage under the new than under the old system.

"An Act to consolidate and amend the Law relative to the Administration of Civil Justice."

This Act is to all intents and purposes a new measure and supersedes the "Court Act" passed in 1790. It is a considerable improvement on the old law which was beset with technicalities. Although this Act is based on the Imperial Common Law Procedure Acts, provision is made by which Imperial Acts having for their object the fusion of law and equity can be extended to this Colony. I am credibly informed by those competent to pass an opinion that this enactment has met with the approbation of the legal profession, and that there is every reason to believe that the public generally will accord their thorough approval when they come to be better acquainted with its scope and object.

This is one of the most important measures in the consolidation and amendment of the laws.

"An Act to provide for the better constitution of Jurors and to simplify Trial by Jury."

This law, as it is set forth in its title, deals with the jury system; there was previously but one qualification for all jurors, and the services of the more intelligent members of the community were only occasionally available on the grand jury. To remedy this, the jurors

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are now divided into two classes, viz. common and special jurors and the standard considerably raised. There can be no diversity of opinion on the advantage of the present over the old law.

"An Act to provide for the relief of Insolvent Debtors within this Island and its Dependencies, and to oblige such Debtors to make a disclosure of their property and deliver the same for the benefit of their Creditors."

A debtor imprisoned for a debt exceeding 100*l.* currency prior to this Act was entirely at the mercy of the detaining creditor, who might from pure vindictiveness have immured him for life. The right to exercise such a control was clearly repugnant to the spirit of modern legislation, and the recent law enables the debtor to apply to the Court for his discharge upon his filing, as a condition prior to his liberation, a schedule of his real and personal property duly verified on oath. Immediate advantage was taken of this law and up to the present time in every instance the persons discharged came within the definition of "pauper debtors," one of whom had been two and a quarter years in prison, a fact which speaks for itself.

"An Act to consolidate the Laws relative to offences punishable on summary conviction and to define the Duties of Constables in certain cases."

It is sufficient here to remark that the labours of the police magistrates are considerably lightened by this Act, as their duties are clearly defined in 71 clauses, and provision is made for securing due respect to them while adjudicating. There is but one opinion entertained, and that is that this measure works well, and petty offences of an irritating description which formerly escaped a well-merited punishment are now brought to light and promptly disposed of.

"An Act to permit and regulate Appeals from the decision or adjudication of the Justices of the Peace."

This law comprehends the provisions of a similar Act which has been in force for some time, but greater power has been confided to the Chief Justice, which was required to make the Court, as an Appellate Tribunal, effective.

"An Act to consolidate and amend certain Acts for improving the Law of Evidence."

The provisions, of various Acts have been consolidated and the law of evidence is assimilated to that of England.

"An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Limitation of Actions and Suits as well as Summary and other Proceedings."

This law embraces the provisions of Imperial Acts dealing with this subject, but not the provisions, however, of the "Real Property "Limitation Act, 1874," the local Act having been passed in ignorance of the alteration effected in the mother country: the rights of the Crown are barred after a lapse of sixty years.

"An Act to amend An Act intituled an Act to regulate and provide for the Disestablishment and gradual Disendowment of the Church of England in the Island of Grenada."

Two objects were in view in framing this measure: one was to avoid the expense incident to procuring a charter of incorporation, which in the case of Jamaica was considerable; and in the second

place, to erect a "Church Council" which should have the entire direction and control of, and supervision over, all matters connected with the Anglican Denomination, and which body should supersede the "Synod," created by the original Act. Both objects have been carried out in the Act under consideration and the Council has met for the transaction of business.

Grenada will now have a code of laws which will bear favourable comparison with many more important Colonies; and a thoroughly defective system of judicature has been replaced by modern and enlightened measures, and the work performed reflects credit upon all concerned.

Civil Establishment.

The following changes occurred during the year: Mr. George E. H. Baker, Inspector of Police, having died, the office was amalgamated with that of Provost-Marshal under Mr. Henry Sharpe; on the resignation of Mr. George Gun Munro, Immigration Agent, Mr. James Anton, Postmaster, was appointed to the office in conjunction with that of Sanitary Inspector; Dr. John Craig resuming his place as Medical Officer of the parish of St. George; and Mr Loftus B. Otway appointed to the vacant office of Postmaster.

Population.

The population is estimated at 39,941 on 31st December last, or 300 souls to the square mile. The number of births registered was 1,869, and of deaths 1,161, being an increase of births over deaths of 708 or 1·78 per cent. of the total estimated population. The birth rate was 47·2 and the death rate 29·3 per thousand, inclusive of still births, which were registered both as births and deaths. The still births were about 2·6 per thousand, reducing the birth and death rates to 44·5 and 26·7 per thousand respectively.

It is a serious matter with regard to the increasing and excessive rate of mortality among children. I have endeavoured to get a Bill passed by the Legislature to increase the salaries of the medical officers, so as to secure better medical attendance on the people, but as yet I have failed to obtain the passing of it.

There were 1,827 successful vaccinations performed during the past year.

One hundred and seventy-nine marriages were solemnized by the several ministers of religon.

The following Table shows the birth and death rates for the last nine years:—

Years.	Birth.	Death.
1866	4·16 per cent.	2·50 per cent.
1867	4·05 „	2·69 „
1868	4·14 „	2·48 „
1869	4·43 „	2·66 „
1870	3·98 „	2·26 „
1871	4·5 „	2·52 „
1872	4·51 „	2·49 „
1873	4·5 „	2·64 „
1874	4·71 „	2·93 „

Education.

Table showing the numbers of children who have been in attendance at the various schools receiving aid from the Government for the past three years :—

Years.	Grammar School.	Normal School.	Church of England.	Wesleyan.	Roman Catholic.	Total.
1872 - -	15	98	1,094	415	625	2,247
1873 - - -	—	114	961	343	762	2,180
1874 - -	36	103	1,050	314	768	2,271

The Inspector of Schools, in his second half-yearly return, reports some improvement. The Board of Education have removed such masters as have been found incompetent, have ordered a full supply of books, &c., and have taken other steps which will tend to effect further improvement.

The number of pupils in the grammar school is now 36, and the examination at Christmas, considering that the school had only been opened a year was very creditable.

Immigration.

The number of Indian immigrants in the Colony on December 31 was 462 male and 238 female adults and 350 children: of these 202 were under indenture for the first five years of their ten years' service, 119 were completing their ten years' actual residence, and 729 were free Coolies, including children.

The sum of 1,899*l.* 19*s.* was paid to immigrants as bounty in lieu of back passage during the year.

Imports and Exports.

The subjoined Tables exhibit the direction of trade during the year :

IMPORTS.

Countries.	1872.			1873.			1874.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
United Kingdom - -	69,309	3	3	41,153	17	4	47,240	5	7
British Colonies - - -	50,389	4	10	74,329	7	9	46,628	19	6
United States - - -	19,619	13	10	14,560	5	6	9,767	0	9
Other foreign countries -	3,117	14	2	3,017	12	5	3,000	8	10
Totals - - - £	142,435	16	1	133,061	3	0	106,636	14	8

There has been a large decrease in the imports during the year, and whilst the direct importations from the United Kingdom have increased to about 6,000*l.*, those from Barbados have decreased to about 16,000*l.*; from Trinidad, 3,000*l.*; and from the United States, 5,000*l.*

The decrease occurred principally in bread stuffs to the extent of

40,000 lb., flour 2,300 barrels, fish 70,000 lb., rice 400,000 lb., and in manufactured goods and plantation stores to the value of about 12,000*l.*

The decrease in bread stuffs and other imported provisions besides the causes previously mentioned may partly be attributed to the large crops of Indian corn, and esculents grown in the Island, and also to the Coolies having become inured to the use of them.

EXPORTS.

Countries.	1872.			1873.			1874.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - -	126,232	6	8	117,848	17	5	120,225	10	4
British Colonies - - -	12,748	9	2	21,561	19	4	24,218	7	9
United States - - -	2,239	12	11	4,985	10	10	6,901	15	7
Other foreign countries -	4,206	15	8	3,123	6	3	7,520	8	4
Totals -- -	145,427	4	5	147,519	13	10	158,866	2	0

There appears an increase in the export trade of the Island, as compared with 1873. of 11,000*l.*

Shipping.

The number of vessels entered at the different ports in the Colony during the year was 459 of 68,614 tons against 476 of 76,706 tons in the preceding year, and the number cleared was 540 of 44,671 tons against 552 of 41,631.

Agriculture.

The following is a return of the principal items of produce exported from the Colony during the last three years, with their respective values :—

Produce.	1872.		1873.		1874.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	tons.	£	tons.	£	tons.	£
Cocoa -	1,051	50,336	1,207	61,811	1,298	66,641
Cotton - -	151	6,125	114	4,270	96	3,568
	gallons.		gallons.		gallons.	
Oil (whale)	2,325	190	4,125	515	8,175	1,022
Rum - -	176,991	10,055	49,411	3,705	87,747	6,581
	tons.		tons.		tons.	
Sugar -	4,217	65,857	3,618	56,385	3,780	58,921
Spices - -	7	1,126	8	1,274	12	1,820

The export of sugar in 1874 was 3,780 tons against 3,618 in 1873, showing an increase of 162 tons, and of cocoa 1,298 tons, against 1,207, showing an increase of 91 tons.

Cocoa is now becoming the principal article of export in lieu of sugar, and exceeded the latter within the last two years in value by 5,000*l.* and 8,000*l.* respectively.

Gaols and Prisons.

The following Table shows the convictions for the last three years:

RETURN OF CONVICTIONS.

Years.	Supreme Court.		Magistrates.		Total.	Debtors.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		
1872 - -	18	1	180	31	230	29
1873 - -	15	1	108	57	181	32
1874 - -	15	1	112	39	167	31

Gaols and Prisons.

The discipline in the gaol is efficiently enforced, and the shot-drill has apparently a deterrent effect.

I much regret that the state of the finances of the Colony is such as to afford no immediate prospect of incurring the very heavy expense necessary for enlarging the prison

Colonial Hospital.

I am quite satisfied with the manner in which this institution is conducted.

The building is in good repair, the dry-earth system is completely established, and the works for the further supply of water to the hospital are nearly finished.

Lunatic and Leper Asylums.

I am quite satisfied with the manner in which these institutions are conducted.

The lunatic asylum building is in a good state of repair, and suggestions I have made with regard to a complete record of the case of each lunatic and a bath for the female lunatics in a different part of the establishment have been attended to.

Additional and better accommodation has been provided for the lepers, and is sufficient for present requirements.

No compulsion is used towards lepers to enter the asylum, but it is believed that all there are in the Island are in the establishment.

Concluding Remarks.

With the exception of the consolidation and amendment of the laws, I have but little to report favourable to the progress of the Colony. The planting and cultivation of cocoa and nutmegs is certainly steadily increasing, but that of sugar decreasing. As I have mentioned in former Reports, Grenada is one of the most fertile, healthy, and pleasant of the West Indian Islands, but it appears that among capitalists there does not exist sufficient confidence in the state of affairs to induce them to purchase estates which are now for sale at a low rate.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Carnarvon, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) S. FREELING,
Lieut.-Governor.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 7.

No. 7.

Lieut.-Governor DUNDAS to Governor RAWSON, C.B.

Government House, St. Vincent,
April 9, 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for 1874, with a Report thereon by Mr. Laborde, the Colonial Secretary, which, as I only arrived in the Colony in February last, I requested him to prepare.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEORGE DUNDAS.

Governor Rawson, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

SIR,

St. Vincent, April 3, 1875.

In compliance with your Excellency's wish I have the honour to submit the following Report on the Blue Book for the year 1874.

Taxes, Duties, Fees.

2. The only change in the taxation was the extension of the house tax to the houses on estates occupied by labourers. This was done to place these houses as regarded taxation on an equal footing with those of the labourers in the villages.

3. No alteration was made in the duties on goods imported and exported.

4. The fees of the Lieut.-Governor on commissions or appointments to office, were abolished. These fees were formerly receivable by the Lieut.-Governor to his own use, but for three years past they had been made payable into the Treasury for public uses. As revenue the amount received from these fees was of no importance, and it was thought to be a hardship to demand their payment by persons just taking up their appointments, and to be more especially a hardship on officers who in the interests of the public service were removed from one office to another, frequently with little or no increase of salary.

Revenue and Expenditure.

5. The revenue for general purposes was 27,440*l.*, about 1,800*l.* less than in 1873; but this difference was due to there having been 1,828*l.* of taxes collected under the Troops Tax Acts in the early portion of the former year, before the repealing Act took effect, nearly the whole of which went to the general revenue. The expenditure was 29,788*l.*, being 1,333*l.* in excess of that of 1873, after deducting some small disbursements made under the Troops Tax Acts in that year. The financial position of the Colony on the 1st of January in the present year is shown in the following statement:—

Financial Statement.

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
Cash balances - - -	6,426	14	11	Due Depositors in Savings Bank - - - -	3,440	9	7
In hands of Crown Agents, London - -	236	4	9	„ Commissioners of Public Lands, &c. -	431	6	7
Advance to Immigration Fund - - - -	994	14	3	Surplus of Assets - -	11,175	18	3
Advance to the Town of Kingstown:—							
Waterworks Account -	7,271	7	9				
Ordinary Current Account - - - -	82	12	9				
Total - -	£15,047	14	5	Total - -	£15,047	14	5

6. The immigration revenue was 5,162*l.*, derived as under stated:

	£
From duties on produce exported - - -	2,641
„ Contribution from general revenue - - -	791
„ Employers on re-indentures - - -	1,389
„ Miscellaneous services - - - - -	341
	£5,162

7. The expenditure was 5,921*l.*; of which 5,010*l.* were paid to immigrants accepting a bounty of 10*l.* each, and entering into re-indentures for service for a further period of years.

8. The immigration fund at the close of the year was indebted to the general revenue in the sum of 994*l.*

9. The revenue of the town of Kingstown was 740*l.*, of which 552*l.* were expended in the ordinary services of the year.

10. The advance made from the general revenue to the town in 1871–2 for its water supply is being very slowly recouped. The sum of 614*l.* was repaid in the past year, leaving 7,271*l.* still owing. In 1873 the current account of the town was overdrawn to the extent of 174*l.* for the erection of a new slaughterhouse and for other improvements; but the over-draft at the close of 1874 had been reduced to 82*l.*

Public Debt.

11. The Colony is not in debt.

Military Expenditure.

12. The only expenditure under this head was that of a sum of 234*l.* spent in the salaries of the garrison adjutant and bandmaster; in the purchase of new band instruments; in the pay of the men, and in other expenses incident to the maintenance of the militia band.

13. The expenditure incurred by Great Britain in aid of the civil establishment was 1,300*l.* for the salary of the Lieut.-Governor, and 450*l.* for one stipendiary magistrate.

Public Works and Buildings.

14. The improvements in the common gaol were continued. The old stone building, formerly containing four wards on the ground

floor and four upstairs, was thoroughly repaired. The walls and roof were raised, and the upper storey was divided into sixteen separate cells, lofty, and well ventilated by apertures through the walls and ceiling. The four wards on the ground floor are retained, but with much improved means of ventilation. The whole of this work has been very creditably performed.

15. The fine building in progress of erection as a police barrack was rapidly advanced. The work of converting the building formerly used as the stores of the Commissariat Department into an hospital was commenced. The repairs of the Court House, for some years in contemplation, were at length undertaken, and were steadily carried on. The wooden bridge over the Bycra river, on the Windward Road, about 20 miles from Kingstown, which had been begun in 1873, was completed, and a substantial stone bridge was erected over the Buccament river, on the highway about six miles to the westward of the town. On these works 4,508*l.* were expended in the year.

Legislation.

16. There were fourteen Acts passed in the year. The most important of these was the Act to authorize the granting of bounty to Indian immigrants who had served their obligatory term of five years under indentures, and had acquired the right to work as free labourers. The bounty is made payable to these immigrants if they enter into fresh indentures for a further term of five years, being two years beyond the term which, under the original Act, they are bound to remain in the Island as free labourers before claiming a return passage to India. The right to a free back passage at the expiration of this term of five years is reserved to the immigrants. The immigrants, to the number of 441, gladly availed themselves of the provisions of this law; and the Colony has thus secured the steady services of acclimatized labourers, who on their part have received a money payment for the act of indenture, which they can turn profitably to the improvement of their condition in life by the purchase of stock, and in other ways.

17. An Act "for the prevention of accidents to ships," based on the provisions of "the (Imperial) Merchant Shipping Act, 1873," also became law.

18. An Act "for the incorporation, management, and winding up of trading companies and other associations," adapted from the Imperial Statutes on this subject; and also "an Act to amend the law of partnership," taken from the 28th and 29th Victoria, c. 86, were added to the Colonial Statute Book.

Civil Establishment.

19. In the administration of the Government there were several changes. Lieut.-Governor Rennie, on account of ill-health, was obliged to leave the Colony in April, and I assumed the administration until the 2nd of May, when I embarked for Grenada to administer the government of that Colony. Mr. Gore on the same day arrived here as Administrator, and remained until October; when, on my return from Grenada, I relieved him.

ST. VINCENT.

20. The other changes in the establishment were as undermentioned: Doctor Mara, from England, assumed the duties of Medical Officer of District No. 3, in January, in the room of Doctor Hawke, who had invalided and had returned home. Colonel Mollan, C.B., was appointed Police Magistrate of the Calliaqua District in May, but resigned his appointment in December. Upon the death of Mr. Drysdale, the Police Magistrate of the Leeward District, Mr. Low was commissioned to succeed him, and assumed the duties of his office in May.

Pensions.

21. The pension list was increased by 65*l.* 5*s.* payable to Mr. John Vincent McDowall, who had served for ten years as a police magistrate, and had been compelled to retire on account of impaired health.

Population and Health.

22. The Registrar-General reports that the natural increase of the population in 1874 was 608, and that the population of the Colony might at the end of that year be estimated to be 38,242. No record of a very reliable character is kept of the arrivals and departures from and to the neighbouring Colonies, and it is not therefore accurately known whether St. Vincent is a gainer or loser by the migrations of the people in a series of years. From such records as are available, it appears that while in 1873 there was an exodus of over 500, chiefly to the Island of Trinidad, there was in 1874 a reactionary movement, by which 467 people from the neighbouring Islands were added to the population of the Colony.

23. There were 1,659 children born alive, 819 males and 840 females; and there were 100 still births, 57 male and 43 female. The birth rate was 44 per thousand. The deaths, exclusive of the still born, were 1,051 in number, 550 males and 501 females, giving a death rate of 27 per thousand. The mortality among infants under one year of age was 24 per cent.; and of all ages under 15 it was over 54 per cent.

24. There were 237 marriages performed. And the successful vaccinations reported by the medical officers were 1,349 in number.

25. The health of the Island was not as good as it had been in the previous year. There was no epidemic, but in the town of Kingstown and in some parts of the leeward country, there were more cases of fever than usual.

Savings Bank.

26. This institution is being year by year more resorted to. The depositors in the last year numbered 493, and the amount deposited, deducting withdrawals, was 688*l.* The number of depositors and amounts on deposit at the close of each of the four last years were:—

Years.	No. of Depositors.	Amount on deposit.
1871	220	£1,389
1872	282	2,513
1873	375	2,680
1874	393	3,440

27. It will be seen from the above figures that the amount on deposit does not increase in proportion with the number of depositors, showing that the bank is being more made use of by the labouring classes for the security of their small savings.

Ecclesiastical.

28. One of the assistant-curates of the late Established Church, whose stipend had been secured to him under the Disestablishment Act of 1873, during his tenure of office, resigned in the fall of the year; and in accordance with the provisions of the Act one half of the lapsed salary became payable to the Wesleyan representative, and one eighth to the representative of the Romish Church, in increase of their respective endowments. The Anglican Church Council having, according to law, satisfied the Governor that from private funds they had raised a sum equal to the remaining three eighths of the lapsed salary, that portion was paid over to them. This is the first action under the Disestablishment Act giving effect to the Concurrent Endowment Scheme.

29. During the year the Anglican Church Council succeeded in obtaining the consent of Doctor Mitchinson, the Lord Bishop of Barbados, to assume the episcopal charge of their Church in this Colony, and his Lordship was duly installed as their Bishop.

Education.

30. The increased grant in aid of the schools for the education of the people, and the working of the Education Act which was brought into operation in 1872, appear to have given an impetus to education. More schools came up to the standard entitling them to state aid, and 1,258*l.* were appropriated from the public moneys in their support, being 38 per cent. more than was expended in 1873. The voluntary contributions were also about 14 per cent. more. The average number of scholars in attendance in the schools rose from 2,400 to 2,922, and the school fees from 548*l.* to 657*l.*

31. The proportion contributed in support of the schools from each of the three sources from whence they are maintained is, from state aid 54½ per cent., from voluntary contributions 17½ per cent., and from school fees 28 per cent. Parents therefore contribute but little more than one fourth of the cost, and their *average* contribution a year for each child is not quite four shillings and sixpence. Were each child to attend regularly throughout the year this contribution would not exceed eight shillings. The number of children in the Colony, estimated by the late census, between the ages of four and fifteen, which are the ages of the children attending the schools, is fully 9,000, yet there is an average attendance of only 2,922, or less than one third.

32. Much credit is due to the ministers of religion for their great exertions in the cause of education. Without them it would, I fear, be a hopeless task to attempt any system for the education of the people; and their ready and earnest endeavours to give a fair trial to the tentative measure lately adopted in this direction should be fully recognized and appreciated.

Imports and Exports.

'33. The value of the goods imported into the Colony was 157,303*l.*, in 1873 it was 155,466*l.* The value of the imports from Great Britain was 70,416*l.*; from British North America, 4,870*l.*; from the United States of America, 14,126*l.*; from the British West Indies, 64,451*l.*; and from other Colonies in the West Indies, 3,440*l.* The value of the exported productions of the Colony was 195,922*l.*, in 1873 it was 198,917*l.* The decrease in the value of the exports is, however, to be attributed to the low markets for sugars, the crop of 1874 having been larger than that of 1873 by over 900 hogshead of sugar, and nearly 4,000 barrels of arrowroot.

34. The direction of trade was much the same as in the previous year, but with the United States of America it had continued to increase, as it had been doing in the previous two years.

Shipping

35. These returns show a falling off. There were only 371 vessels, having an aggregate tonnage of 21,661 tons, entered, and 364 vessels, having an aggregate tonnage of 20,949 tons, cleared at this port in 1874; while in 1873 there were 413 vessels of 20,735 tons entered, and 392 vessels of 20,595 tons cleared.

Gaols and Prisoners.

36. There were fewer commitments to the gaol in the past year, as well of prisoners for penal punishment as of prisoners for safe custody and for debt; and the daily average in gaol was consequently lower. The sanitary condition of the gaol was good; and of the 105 appearing in the column of admissions to hospital, hardly any were seriously ill. There was one death (sudden) from heart disease and one from diarrhœa.

Crime.

37. The offences reported during the year were not as numerous as in the year before, and the convictions in the inferior courts were not as many. The cases in the superior courts were also fewer, and the convictions were less by one half. The acquittals were less by one half. The acquittals (not cases that fell through for want of prosecution), both in the inferior and superior courts, were also less in number. The following are the figures for the last three years:—

Years.	Inferior Courts.			Superior Courts.		
	No. of Cases.	Convictions.	Acquittals.	No. of Cases.	Convictions.	Acquittals.
1872 - -	2,665	1,010	356	21	11	5
1873 - -	2,596	1,071	392	32	20	5
1874 - -	2,460	998	348	23	10	4

38. Prædial larceny, that is stealing from provision grounds and homesteads, had decreased, as also had other offences against property.

Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums.

39. The admissions into the Hospital were 275, and the cases remaining from the previous year 25, making in all 300 cases under treatment in 1874; in 1873 there were 305 cases under treatment. The death rate was a little over 5½ per cent.; but the Colonial surgeon reports that six of the deaths were of patients admitted in a moribund condition. There were two inspections by the visiting Committee, whose Reports were favourable as to the general condition and management of the Institution.

40. The temporary provision made in 1873 at the buildings at Fort Charlotte for the reception of the lunatics then confined in gaol has had to be extended, so as to receive several other cases of lunacy which have since come to notice. There were eleven lunatics, four male and seven female, under treatment during the year, of whom one male and one female were discharged cured.

I have, &c.,

George Dundas, Esq., (Signed) EDWARD LABORDE.
&c. &c. &c.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 8.

The ADMINISTRATOR of the GOVERNMENT to Governor RAWSON, C.B.

Government Office, St. Lucia,
November 17, 1874.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for 1873, and at the same time to ask your Excellency's indulgence in respect of the delay that has occurred in its preparation, a delay which, as your Excellency is aware, has arisen from causes beyond my control.

Having been absent on special duty during the greater part of the year, and having on former occasions reported fully upon the condition of the Island, which is in most respects unaltered, I have but little of general interest to add now.

The year 1873 was the second year in succession during which very low prices were obtained for sugar. The weather was also unfavourable to the crops. And these two circumstances in combination, though affecting St. Lucia less than some of the neighbouring colonies, yet caused the returns of exports and, as a natural consequence, those of imports and revenue, to fall considerably below the point reached in the previous year. Nevertheless the figures are so large, when compared with those of former years, that were affected by similar unfavourable conditions, as to afford an indication of the recent material progress of the Island.

ST. LUCIA.

The following Table gives the chief fiscal and trade statistics of all the years of which we have complete records :—

Year.	Revenue. (Exclusive of special funds.)	Expenditure.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.	Quantity of Sugar Exported.
	£	£	£	£	lbs
1829	—	—	116,710	117,654	10,557,200
1837	—	—	125,362	85,919	5,926,300
1839	11,857	12,237	114,151	89,307	4,160,100
1840	12,614	12,837	112,902	91,378	4,196,100
1841	13,180	12,683	109,246	145,488	5,576,600
1853	13,892	13,240	72,650	57,005	6,883,072
1854	15,930	16,316	96,279	55,836	6,635,104
1855	12,281	14,884	55,514	54,980	6,378,848
1856	13,663	12,734	91,901	70,484	5,793,424
1857	13,332	12,599	90,064	99,903	6,261,875
1858	13,191	12,077	102,036	94,659	7,347,525
1859	12,832	12,499	103,973	101,879	7,966,785
1860	13,603	12,151	97,900	105,947	7,958,165
1861	14,227	14,137	110,064	96,321	9,594,000
1862	14,689	15,802	93,607	87,992	8,762,415
1863	12,591	14,480	69,584	83,712	8,725,125
1864	12,949	13,367	90,363	111,384	8,110,025
1865	12,727	12,300	70,758	107,321	8,579,146
1866	15,294	15,410	91,505	109,483	10,942,738
1867	13,442	14,296	71,138	93,831	9,626,381
1868	15,346	13,810	97,846	121,366	11,118,829
1869	14,983	13,638	90,965	118,164	10,517,725
1870	15,867	14,602	106,285	147,172	12,865,103
1871	18,308	16,980	121,384	171,461	12,918,960
1872	21,052	17,843	151,194	184,622	13,510,850
1873	19,908	20,347	116,037	151,011	12,076,500

It will be observed from the above that the expenditure of 1873 (exclusive of special funds) exceeded the revenue by 439*l.* But of the total expenditure the sum of 1,240*l.* (on account of the erection of new hospitals), and other sums amounting to 530*l.*, were intended to be taken from the Treasury balances of former years. Deducting these items, amounting in the whole to 1,770*l.*, the expenditure chargeable to the year was 18,577*l.*, so that there was virtually a surplus of 1,331*l.*

The total revenue of all the public funds, including "General," "Immigration," "Roads," "Education," Harbour Dredge," "Casual," and "Castries Town," was 26,741*l.* The total expenditure, 26,858*l.*

The surplus balances of the above funds on the 31st of December, 1873, amounted to 13,718*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*

I have, &c.,

(Signed) G. WILLIAM DE VŒUX.

Rawson W. Rawson, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

DOMINICA.

No. 9.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
MY LORD, 11th May, 1875.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a highly interesting Report from Mr. Prestoe, Government Botanist of Trinidad, on the subject of a boiling lake recently discovered in Dominica.

I have, &c.,
The Earl of Carnarvon, (Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
&c. &c. &c. Governor.

Mr. PRESTOE to President ELDRIDGE.

Enclosure in No. 12.

SIR, Roseau, 1st May, 1875.

I beg to furnish you for the information of His Excellency the Governor with a brief account of the trip I made to the boiling lake, in company with the Surveyor-General and Dr. Nichols, and from which we returned late last night.

2. We left town on Tuesday morning, and reached the first souffrière in the Souffrière Valley the same evening. Here we constructed "adjussars" for the night, the boiling lake being nearly two hours' walk farther on and which we reached the next day at about one, having examined the several souffriers of the valley en route.

3. Our route lay viâ the district at the head of the Roseau Valley, known as "Laudats," and across the southern portion of the Coliabone range of hills, and the three or four branches of the Mirale river south-eastward, thence up the most southern of the branches of the river Mirale a little southward, and finally up its south-east branch to the head of the Souffrière Valley, thence down the Souffrière Valley due east and west, and up a minor valley, north-westward to the Boiling Lake.

4. One of the ridges in the Coliabone range was traversed at an elevation of 2,475 feet by aneroid, but the route presented no particular difficulties until the upper part of the most southern branch of the Mirale river was reached, and here, on account of the precipitous hills on both sides of the watercourse, much obstructed by huge boulders, it had to be followed to the head of the Souffrière Valley—elevation 2,680 feet.

5. At this point the passage became excessively difficult and dangerous, from the precipitous character of the hill-side, down which it was only possible to proceed by clinging to the tree stems. Reaching the watercourse of this valley, the root continued down it, and again

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up that of the minor valley leading north-eastward to the Boiling Lake; the difficulties of the last portion of the route being increased by the large volume of very hot water coursing down from the innumerable souffrier issues higher up.

6. The nature of the Boiling Lake is, I believe, exactly the same as that of the many souffriers in the adjoining valley, and those I have seen at the head of the Roseau Valley. It differs from them only in size and position. These smaller souffriers are all aqueous solfataras, with apparently an excess of ejective power (exerted by their gases and heat) over the water which effects them, and which drains from the adjacent hills. The Boiling Lake is a gigantic solfatara, with apparently an excess of water over the ejective power exerted by its gases and heat. In its case, the water affecting it flows in from two converging ravines which meet on its north-west corner in very considerable volume.

7. The action of the solfatara, together with the existence of a small hill immediately opposite the point of ingress of the water, have caused the formation of a crater-like cavity, with precipitous sides on the north-east and south-west, of some sixty feet depth to the water's edge. The depth of the lake, as is usual with such formations, appears to be indefinable, since I found no bottom at 10 feet from the water's edge with a line of 135 feet length.

8. The temperature of the water was found to be from 180° to 195° Fahr.

9. The outlet of the water—which is of a deep grey colour, from the presence of decomposed rock and sulphur—is by a ravine running south-east, and which, already with deep precipitous sides, is continually deepening. The surface of the lake is thus necessarily being correspondingly lowered, and with this process the lake will be, and apparently not long hence, destroyed by the complete drainage that will be effected by the deepening of the ravine.

10. The removal of the existing large body of water over the solfatara will probably change the character of the Boiling Lake into something like that of a geyser, should the solfatara continue active. Then will follow a gradual filling up of the cavity by the reduction of the adjacent hill sides, which, simultaneously with the change of direction in the watercourse, or its dissemination, will create many small solfataras in the place of the large one. This, there can be no doubt from the evidences which exists in the locality, has been the process by which the present conformation of the district has been brought about, and that too quite recently.

11. The most distinct evidences of this process exist at the head of the minor valley leading to the Boiling Lake, the chief of which are precipitous and barren hill-sides, a great width of valley-bed, consisting of decomposed rock and huge boulders, amongst which are innumerable solfataras and rivulets; and lower down in the ravine, where the disturbance has been less extensive, flows the heavy stream of hot water, heavily charged with sulphur and decomposed rock.

12. The state of ebullition in the Boiling Lake is confined to one point, at the south-east part of the lake. This, of course, communicates a constant and violent agitation over the whole surface. The elevation of the volume of ejected water is usually two or three

feet, but it occasionally rises a foot or more higher. It is also seen occasionally to divide into two or three distinct cones, as though being ejected from as many orifices. There was no escape of gas or steam noticed beyond what arose from the surface of the water generally.

13. On the north and west and south-east sides of the lake there is an accumulation of rock débris above the water's surface, which was reached with difficulty down the precipitous sides, and from which I applied the thermometer. The hot sulphurous vapour was, of course, overpowering, and has a deadly effect on the trees hard by. This destruction of some of the trees (*Clusias*) around the lake would indicate that its power had lately increased, as otherwise they would not have reached their present dimensions. I noticed the same effect about the other souffriers in the neighbourhood.

14. The hill sides in the two souffrier valleys are to a great extent very precipitous and barren—conditions which are obviously due to comparatively recent action of the many souffriers. These surfaces are very sparsely covered with one or two species of Brounlia, mosses, and ferns—as a first step, probably, to their being reclothed in forest verdure.

15. I may mention that one of the important effects due to the action of these souffriers is the development of various kinds of gypsum in process of decomposition of the volcanic rock. Some large masses were seen (and samples collected) of a kind strongly resembling the voltena or Tuscany marble.

16. Samples illustrative of the process of the rock decomposition as of the lake and hot stream water, the various forms of sulphur, &c., &c., I have brought with me for future examination. As regards the Boiling Lake itself, I regard it as quite unique, and of the highest importance to geological science.

17. On the third day out (Thursday), the Surveyor-General and myself explored the hills on the north side of the Souffrière Valley, and succeeded in finding a shorter and altogether better route to the Boiling Lake. Later in the day the Surveyor-General succeeded in finding a continuation of the new route north-west, so that now all the difficulties of the Souffrière Valley—the two chief, as already mentioned, being the hot-water ravine and the frightful precipice at the head of the Souffrière Valley—are now avoided. There now remains about one mile of seriously difficult route, being about half a mile the homeward side of the last-mentioned precipice, and ending at the foot of the Coliabone range south-eastward, where the most southern of the branches of the Mirale river is left. Want of time and very bad weather prevented us examining this portion of the route beyond what could be done in traversing it; no unusual difficulty exists for the construction of a bridle-road from "Laudats" to the Boiling Lake.

18. It is hardly in place here to speak of the capabilities of the country agriculturally in any particular; but I will venture to mention the surpassingly fertile character of the soil met with throughout the journey to the head of the Souffrière Valley. The soil of the *hills* is as rich as that usually found in the West Indian *valleys*. Nor can I forbear mentioning the perfect adaptability of a

DOMINICA.

very large extent of country passed over for the cultivation of the invaluable cinchona.

19. The low temperature astonished me. The highest day temperature in the Souffrière Valley was only 65°, the lowest 56° Fahr.! On the road from "Laudats" to the Coliabone hills the temperature was only 68° Fahr. at noon.

I have, &c.,

C. M. Eldridge, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HY. PRESTOE, Sub-Botanist, Trinidad.

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No. 10.

No. 10.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Leeward Islands, Antigua, June 22, 1875.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, together with the Blue Book of Dominica for the year 1874, the President's Report thereon.

The Auditor-General states that the financial position of the Colony is correctly represented by the President, but that there is reason to doubt whether the anticipations expressed as to the probability of the revenue for the current year being adequate to meet the expenditure will be realized.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Carnarvon, &c. &c. &c.

GEORGE BERKELEY, Governor.

Enclosure in No. 17.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1874.

For the past two years the expenditure has been in excess of the revenue, in consequence of which the available balance in the Treasury has been absorbed, and the year closed with a debit balance of some 200*l.* The excess in 1873 was 1,120*l.*, and in 1874 2,434*l.* The excess is exceptional, and has been caused in a very great measure from the heavy outlay on roads, public buildings, jetty and crane, grants to the public garden, for the importation of postage stamps, weights and measures, steamers mooring, passage money of treasurer, church at Laplaine, sufferers by fire in Nevis, and reading-room; together with the purchase and enclosure of land for a cemetery. The revenue of 1875 will be quite sufficient to meet the ordinary expenditure, and pay off the small balance of 200*l.* remaining over from last year.

2. Local legislation has permanently increased the ordinary expenditure by the addition of 160*l.* to the pension list, 335*l.* to the medical staff, with a prospective reduction of 125*l.* Of this sum an increase of some 70*l.* on road service and 700*l.* for the pay of the President; in all, 1,265*l.* per annum.

3. The expenses under Federal Acts have also increased the ordinary expenditure, but not to the extent that is generally supposed. The following figures illustrate the fact:—

		£	s.	d.
Proportion of pay of Federal officers ($\frac{3}{16}$ths), Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, and Auditor-General at 800*l.* each		2,400	0	0
Judge and Puisne Judges, 1,500*l.*, 1,200*l.*, and 700*l.*		3,400	0	0
$\frac{3}{16}$ths of the above salaries payable by Dominica		1,087	10	0
Proportion clerk's (General Legislative Assembly) salary, 5*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, telegrams, &c., 50*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*		56	5	0
Magistrates		1,370	0	0
Proportion pay inspector-general of police		150	0	0
Inspector police	£200			
Horse allowance	35			
		235	0	0
Proportion pay-inspector schools		93	15	0
Sub-inspector schools		50	0	0
		3,042	10	0
From this sum may be deducted the pay of the following officers:—				
Colonial Secretary	300			
Attorney-General	200			
Judge	600			
Magistrates—				
Roseau 300*l.*, Coroner 75*l.*	375			
Portsmouth 250*l.* „ 75*l.*	325			
District B 250*l.* „ 75*l.*	325			
District A	200			
Superintendent police	100			
Horse allowance	50			
Inspector schools	100			
Horse allowance	20			
		2,595	0	0
		447	10	0
From this sum further deductions must be made for fees now paid into the Treasury:—				
Judge's fees	100			
Magistrate's petty debt fees	100			
Expense Appeal Court	50			
		250	0	0
Leaving a balance of increased expenditure of		£197	10	0

Revenue and Expenditure.

4. The revenue is derived from both direct and indirect taxation, which is equitably distributed, and is collected with diligence by the

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several officers entrusted with its receipt. During the past five years the revenue and expenditure has been as follows:—

Revenue.		Expenditure.
£		£
15,721	1870	15,248
15,440	1871	16,071
17,310	1872	17,162
16,424	1873	17,544
15,022	1874	17,456

5. The principal sources of revenue have been as follows:—

	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.
	£	£	£	£	£
Import Duties	6,473	6,430	7,163	6,505	5,813
Tonnage and Harbour Dues	633	718	680	633	644
Export Duty	1,376	1,226	1,146	1,257	1,225
Excise Duty	2,320	2,587	3,106	2,717	2,533
Licences	1,170	1,121	1,411	1,319	1,054
Fees, Fines, Forfeitures	834	682	1,082	956	1,022
Rents	319	131	146	107	94
House, Income, and Assessed Taxes	687	694	737	684	831
Road Tax £	1,794	1,817	1,724	1,492	1,577

6. The falling off of the revenue as compared with 1873 was 1,400*l*; 500*l*. of this amount may be deducted for exceptional receipts. In 1873 the balance was principally from diminished revenue under imports, liquor and still licences, excise duty, and trade licences. These reduced receipts being in their turn somewhat counterbalanced by increased receipts from roads, fees of office, post office, house-tax, &c.

7. The expenditure of the year was slightly less than that of the previous one, the increase under the head of public works and poor-house being balanced by a decrease on roads and miscellaneous.

8. The following figures exhibit the principal sources of expenditure for the past five years:—

EXPENDITURE.

Service.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.
	£	£	£	£	£
Civil Establishment	2,115	1,983	2,234	2,480	2,228
Administration of Justice	2,160	2,334	2,281	2,245	2,722
Revenue Department	1,392	1,436	1,591	1,632	1,519
Police Department	1,320	1,289	1,307	1,333	1,247
Gaol Department	547	550	553	571	624
Education	750	769	740	708	635
Poor-house, Lunatic Asylum, and Infirmary	1,502	1,500	1,557	1,545	1,951
Works and Buildings	896	946	1,721	989	1,652
Roads	2,198	1,735	2,227	2,388	1,574
Lights and Signals	92	103	126	138	156
Board of Health	30	461	914	59	153
Printing and Stationery	394	434	384	272	225
Pensions, Annuities, and Gratuities	110	97	119	400	373
Hurricane Loan	812	817	817	804	804
Miscellaneous £	929	1,577	1,580	1,951	1,501

9. The following Tables exhibit the imports and exports from 1871 to 1874:—

IMPORTS.

Years.	Whence Exported.			
	Great Britain.	British West Indies, &c.	Foreign West Indies.	United States.
	£	£	£	£
1871 - -	23,357	33,136	4,888	600
1872 - -	22,257	39,976	6,651	—
1873 - -	18,663	37,307	6,582	—
1874 - -	16,926	33,211	6,577	—

EXPORTS.

Years.	Where Imported.			
	Great Britain.	British West Indies, &c.	Foreign West Indies.	United States.
	£	£	£	£
1871 - -	49,940	2,424	1,131	1,463
1872 - -	56,606	3,945	1,034	259
1873 - -	54,292	4,001	3,591	136
1874 - -	60,003	5,460	2,256	—

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

Years.	Sugar.		Molasses,		Rum.		Coffee.		Cocoa.	
	Cwts.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
		£		£		£		£		£
1871	66,219	46,356	94,015	1,921	40,615	2,545	15,734	379	203,433	2,319
1872	61,418	51,558	105,282	3,476	24,630	1,543	12,466	337	204,773	2,546
1873	69,300	51,927	95,613	2,081	16,282	1,140	13,319	403	186,688	2,216
1874	65,903	54,727	70,849	2,312	32,498	2,280	12,046	395	189,782	2,164

Years.	Farine Manioc.		Lime Juice.		Tamarinds.		Logwood.		Firewood.	
	Bushels.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Packages.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Cords.	Value.
		£		£		£		£		£
1871	3	1	3,593	170	7	10	19	23	670	373
1872	246	63	5,932	691	131	55	20	33	853	453
1873	741	180	7,317	738	260	173	8	14	1,139	592
1874	147½	34	12,462	1,601	251	252	105	165	1,474	743

10. *Public Debt.*

Hurricane Loan, payable in six years - - £4,818 6 8

Public Works.

11. The expenditure (3,227*l.*) has been unusually high, owing principally to the erection of a commodious jetty, together with the extensive repairs to public buildings, and roads and bridges. The outlay under this head will be materially reduced during the current year (1875). The Road Bill came into operation in May, and during the remaining portion of the year three small bridges were built, some repaired, and over one hundred miles of road were put in thorough order.

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Legislation.

12. Nineteen Acts were passed during the year. Of these the following were the most important:—

The Medical Aid Act, for the labouring population, &c. By this law the Presidency is divided into three medical districts, exclusive of the public institutions. The medical officers receive incomes from the Government of 200*l.* and 250*l.*, for attendance on children under 9 and adults over 60 years old, in addition to fees for vaccination, attendance at inquests, and for attendance on labourers between the years of 9 and 60. The measure is one of importance, and likely to confer great advantages on the poorer classes.

The Road Act. This law removes the repairs of the roads from an irresponsible Board with a cumbrous machinery, to the immediate care of the Inspector of Roads and two Sub-Inspectors, under the direction of the Governor. The collection of the road tax is entrusted to the magistrates; and improved roads, decreased expenditure, and increased receipt of the road tax may reasonably be expected.

The Roseau Infirmary Act provides for the upkeep of an old and valuable institution, originally kept up by private subscriptions, but latterly almost entirely supported by Government. The institution was under the control of the Anglican Minister. The Honourable John Imray, M.D., was for years its medical officer, and has brought it up to its present state of usefulness. I append his interesting annual Report.

Civil Establishment.

13. Death removed an old public officer, Mr. G. H. A. Porter, the Colonial Registrar. The larger portion of this officer's official service was passed in the Virgin Islands, where he acted as Colonial Secretary, and several times administered the Local Government. Two new magistrates, Mr. Edward A. Faille and Mr. W. H. Whyham, were appointed, and assumed their duties; and one magistrate, Mr. William Johnstone, was removed from the public service.

Pensions.

14. Were allowed to Mr. Joseph Fadelle, who for many years acted as messenger to the Legislative Council, upon the abolition of his office; to Mr. Charles Lloyd, the late acting Attorney-General, in consideration of his advanced age; and to Mr. John B. Dupigny, upon his retirement from the office of revenue officer.

Population.

15. The Registrar-General's return shows an increase of 286 births over the deaths, the former being 882, and the latter 596, being an increase of 23 as compared with 1873. Marriages are returned as 273, against 174 the previous year. This large increase of marriages, I trust, is indicative of not only improved worldly prosperity, but is significant of a better moral tone amongst our people.

Savings Bank.

16. The one recently opened has only been used by one or two depositors.

Education.

17. The Report of the Inspector of Schools discloses anything but a satisfactory state of things—a falling off in attendance of the children, and the apathy and parsimony of parents. With a population of 27,000, we find 813 on the school list, being 157 less than the previous year. The annual Legislative grant is 750*l*. Compulsory education and more efficient teachers, as a rule, are required.

General.

18. Although the town of Roseau is contiguous to a fine river, often swollen by the rainfall in the interior to alarming dimensions, yet the inhabitants are badly off for water, being in a great measure dependent upon wells, affected seriously by impurities of surface and other drainage; and in case of fire, the town is wholly unprotected, being without even a fire-brigade or suitable fire-engine; hence the necessity of the construction of the contemplated waterworks, which it is hoped may be completed during 1875, the filtering and collecting cistern being at sufficient elevation to protect the loftiest building without recourse to engines.

19. With the exception of the yaws disease, the health of the Island during the year has been excellent. This disease, it is to be feared, is spreading amongst our people, and stringent legislation will be necessary for its eradication. The medical officers appointed under the Medical Aid Act will materially assist the Government in dealing with the disease. I am glad to be able to report considerable progress has been made in vaccination, but still the mass of the people are unprotected from the ravages of smallpox.

20. The important question of the management of the Crown land will, I trust, be dealt with in the ensuing year. Squatting continues unchecked, and its evils are daily increasing. The aid of the local Legislature will have to be resorted to in awarding suitable punishment for the continued and extensive trespassing on the lands of the Crown. The sales of land during the year have been very limited.

21. In commercial matters, while trade has been restricted and circumscribed in its operation, a more healthy tone is plainly manifested, and the year closed with a fair average sale of Christmas goods. The propitious weather during the fall and latter part of the year encourages the hope of a good return from the several native products. The development of a fruit trade is much to be desired. All tropical fruits are to be had in abundance at moderate prices. Soil, climate, and unnumbered acres of virgin land offer facilities of untold increased production, and every facility is afforded for vessels in passing along and loading coastwise.

C. M. ELDRIDGE, President.

General Report on the Roseau Infirmary for the year 1874.

In forwarding to his Honour the President the usual Tables forming a Report of the Roseau Infirmary for the year 1874, to be laid before the Legislative Assembly, I may be permitted to notice the change that has recently taken place in the management of that institution. It is unnecessary to enter into a history of the Roseau

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Infirmary, it is well known to the Island, I may only state that the institution has until lately been a private establishment, though existing for the public good. The principal building was erected at the expense of the late Alexander Dalrymple, Esquire, and the direction of the infirmary placed entirely in the hands of the Rector of St. George for the time being. During a period of about thirty years, this infirmary has supplied the place of a Colonial hospital, and it may be said not inefficiently. Nearly all the surgical operations that have been required in the Colony during that time have been performed there, and nearly all serious accidents treated in the Roseau Infirmary, whilst its doors were open to all applicants of the poor without distinction who were labouring under curable disease, that is so far as room would permit. Tables giving the name, and al particulars relating to every inmate of the institution since its commencement, have been submitted yearly to the Legislature, and a large map of valuable statistics has thus been accumulated, bearing on the prevailing diseases of the Island. Until a recent time these Tables were printed as a part of the Official Gazette. It is much to be regretted that this practice has been discontinued, as a break has taken place in the printed documents.

Although the Roseau Infirmary was under private management, the funds for its support were furnished by the Colony chiefly, private subscriptions forming only a part of its available means. For some years past the infirmary has been greatly embarrassed for want of money, the private subscriptions not increasing, and the grant from the Colony being limited, while the demands upon the institution increased year by year. For these and other reasons that need not here be specified, it was judged expedient in the interests of the Roseau Infirmary, and consequently of the public, that the institution should be taken over by the Colony, and be converted into a Colonial hospital. This change was accordingly effected by an Act of the Legislature. Having now become a public hospital, the Government have placed it under the control of a Board of Directors. Being no longer a private institution, new expenditure has been necessarily incurred, as well as a change in its management. A complete set of surgical instruments were required, the medical attendant having formerly made use of his own instruments for most part in performing operations, &c. A want that had been long felt, also required to be met,—a dispenser of medicine, who should also render assistance on all occasions when required. The instruments I believe have been ordered, and a dispenser is now employed, who is performing his duties much to my satisfaction. When the finances of the Colony will permit I should strongly recommend that the lower wing of the hospital be completed; it is still unfinished, and two more wards might be added to it, which would much increase the usefulness of the hospital, as applications for admission yearly increase, and often there is not room for all that apply. During 1874 the number admitted has been very large as compared with former years. In 1873 there were 164 admissions, in 1874 no fewer than 214. The Coolie part of the population forms a considerable portion of those who obtain relief in the infirmary. In 1874 there were 30 Coolie inmates as against 18 in 1873. A properly constructed operation table is one of the requirements of the hospital, being much wanted.

I would also recommend the introduction of the dry-earth system as a great improvement over the present system.

The advantages that are derived from the Roseau Infirmary may perhaps be more apparent to the public, if the surgical department is looked to. During 1874, five of the larger amputations have been there performed; six cases of fractures of the extremities treated, and several smaller operations have been performed. I may draw attention to the fact, that the operation for cataract, a disease of the eye causing blindness, has been successfully performed in the Roseau Infirmary by my partner, Dr. Nicholls. I mention this, as others of the poor of the Island who may be blind from this cause might seek relief within the infirmary. I may state that all the operations during last year have been done by Dr. Nicholls, and all the surgical cases treated by him.

The large proportion of deaths to the number admitted cannot but attract attention, and this circumstance has frequently been alluded to in former yearly Reports. The cause is to be attributed to the fact that in serious cases of illness, especially as regards bowel complaints, patients too often apply in the last stage of the disease, when very often little can be done but to alleviate pain and smooth the passage to the grave.

JOHN IMRAY, M.D.,
Medical Attendant of the Roseau Infirmary.

TABLE OF DISEASES TREATED IN THE ROSEAU INFIRMARY DURING THE YEAR 1874.

Name of Disease	No. of Cases under Treatment.	Deaths.
Ulceration	32	
Fevers	29	
Mechanical Injuries	19	
Rheumatism	13	
Diseases of the Chest	13	6
Dysentery	11	6
Diseases of Groin and Urinary Organs	9	
„ the Throat	9	1
Dropsy	9	4
Syphilis	8	
Abscess	8	
Diseases of Nervous System	7	
„ Heart	7	3
„ Bowels	6	
Fractures	6	
General Debility	4	1
Diseases of the Eye	3	
„ Brain	3	
„ Liver	3	2
„ Skin	3	
„ Bones	3	
Cancer	2	1
Other diseases: i. e. Erysipelas, Worms, Hernia, Diseases of Women. Insanity, &c.	11	
	218	24

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No. 11.

No. 11.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
June 17, 1875.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Antigua for 1874, with a Report thereon from Mr. Baynes, the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 18.

Colonial Secretary's Office, St. John's,
June 11, 1875.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the following Report on the Blue Book of Antigua for the year 1874:—

Revenue and Expenditure.

A recurrence during 1873 and part of 1874 of the severe drought with which Antigua has of late years been visited, had the effect of reducing the sugar crop of 1874 to the smallest shipped from the Island since 1864. This almost complete failure of the only staple production of the Island, following upon the short crops of 1872 and 1873, caused considerable depression in the commercial as well as in the agricultural interests, and also led to an unprecedented degree of distress and destitution among the labouring population. In these unfortunate circumstances, it cannot be otherwise than expected that the retrospect of the year will, to some extent, be an unfavourable one.

The revenue, including a balance of 74*l.* from the previous year, amounted to 30,869*l.*, and the expenditure to 36,328*l.*, leaving a deficit of 5,458*l.*, which was met by loans raised for the purpose. This unsatisfactory state of the finances was due to the great falling off, as compared with previous years, in the amounts collected under the principal heads of revenue.

	1872.	1873.	1874.
	£	£	£
Import Duty - - -	20,483	17,151	15,843
Export „ - - -	1,282	1,605	1,531
Excise „ - - -	4,264	3,874	2,972
Stamp „ - - -	871	797	703

Considerable reductions were effected in the expenditure, which was 1,850*l.* less than that of 1873, notwithstanding the fact that in 1874 there was a heavy and exceptional outlay on public works and roads, consequent on the necessity which forced itself upon me, during

my administration of the general Government, to provide work for the many labourers thrown out of employment after the crop had been reaped; and to increase the water supply of St. John's, the springs from which the city is supplied having failed, in the early part of the year, to yield a sufficient quantity of water to meet the wants of the inhabitants.

The following statement will show the reduction which has been effected in the expenditure during the last four years:—

1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.
£	£	£	£
40,378	36,988	37,842	36,328

The saving effected by the arrangements consequent on the federation of the Leeward Islands is shown in the following Table:—

	Before Federation.				Under Federation.		
	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CIVIL—							
Colonial Secretary	600 0 0	600 0 0	600 0 0	600 0 0	312 10 0	250 0 0	250 0 0
Island „	—	—	—	—	262 10 0	350 0 0	350 0 0
Auditor-General	400 0 0	400 0 0	400 0 0	400 0 0	265 12 6	250 0 0	250 0 0
JUDICIAL—							
Chief Justice	1,100 0 0	1,100 0 0	1,100 0 0	1,100 0 0	1,100 0 0	1,100 0 0	468 15 0
Puisne „	200 0 0	200 0 0	200 0 0	200 0 0	200 0 0	200 0 0	—
1st Puisne Judge	—	—	—	—	—	—	360 0 0
2nd „ „	—	—	—	—	—	—	205 4 8
Attorney-General	400 0 0	400 0 0	400 0 0	400 0 0	287 10 0	250 0 0	250 0 0
Paid for conducting criminal prosecutions	—	—	—	—	57 10 0	—	—
Magistrates	1,200 0 0	950 0 0	950 0 0	950 0 0	918 15 0	875 0 0	875 0 0
LEGISLATIVE—							
President of Council	—	—	—	—	—	17 14 4	13 15 7
Clerk of Council	—	—	—	—	6 5 0	9 7 6	6 5 0
Expenses of Members	—	—	—	—	—	110 5 0	95 11 0
£	3,900 0 0	3,650 0 0	3,650 0 0	3,650 0 0	3,410 2 6	3,412 6 10	3,124 11 3

Legislation.

Nine Acts were passed by the General Legislative Council, the most important of which are the Police Act, the Education Act, and the Court of Summary Jurisdiction Act.

7. The laws passed by the Island Legislature are fourteen in number, and relate principally to fiscal and other purely local matters.

Imports, Exports and Shipping.

As a natural consequence of the depression in trade and agriculture previously alluded to, the returns show a great falling off under each of these heads. As will be seen by a reference to the following figures:—

	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.
	£	£	£	£
Value of imports	175,740	200,577	169,156	146,758
„ exports	247,630	153,190	170,977	106,705
Shipping	432 ships	446 ships	437 ships	384 ships
Sugar exported	13,261 hhds.	7,735 hhds.	9,625 hhds.	6,129 hhds.

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The following Table exhibits the increase or decrease in 1873, in the importation of the principal articles of consumption as compared with the two previous years :—

Articles.	1872.		1873.		1874.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
FOOD.	barrels	£	barrels	£	barrels	£
Flour	19,106	23,847	14,895	22,327	14,683	22,016
Corn meal	19,676	19,676	12,242	12,242	15,508	15,508
	lbs.		lbs.		lbs.	
Rice	575,302	2,876	275,659	1,516	309,788	1,858
Bread and biscuit	453,608	4,536	196,404	1,964	378,444	3,784
Beef	32,555	814	27,228	680	18,185	454
Pork	374,637	9,365	345,690	8,642	275,163	6,879
Hams and Bacon	23,736	1,186	17,833	891	21,685	1,084
	cwts.		cwts.		cwts.	
Fish dried	12,102	12,102	8,864	8,864	7,210	7,210
	barrels		barrels		barrels	
„ pickled	5,017	4,181	3,300	3,300	2,233	2,233
	lbs.		lbs.		lbs.	
Butter	66,488	3,324	53,769	2,686	41,519	2,075
Coffee	26,578	664	22,191	739	21,356	711
Cheese	34,390	1,289	20,194	757	13,358	500
Cocoa	36,625	908	32,915	822	28,279	706
Tea	4,620	472	3,899	487	6,115	764
Sugar refined	17,285	432	16,008	400	11,721	293
	bushels		bushels		bushels	
Peas and beans	3,439	687	2,370	592	1,895	473
	barrels		barrels		barrels	
Potatoes	1,373	343	893	357	812	324
Total values	—	86,720	—	67,266	—	66,872
WINES, &c.						
Wine	—	1,582	—	1,067	—	1,621
Ale, beer, &c.	—	2,516	—	1,025	—	531
	gals.		gals.		gals.	
Brandy	5,030	2,515	4,660	2,330	3,489	1,744
Gin	2,749	550	6,769	1,553	3,862	772
Sweetened spirits	33	13	73	32	47	23
Total values	—	7,176	—	6,007	—	4,691
TOBACCO.	lbs.		lbs.		lbs.	
Cigars	225	56	304	84	309	98
Leaf	43,377	1,183	100,403	3,346	57,434	1,914
Manufactured	201	20	—	—	98	9
Total values	—	1,259	—	3,430	—	2,021
WOOD.	ft.		ft.		ft.	
White pine and spruce	1,957,074	5,871	757,148	3,028	576,155	2,400
Pitch pine	403,410	2,017	501,308	2,757	121,962	670
Shingles, cypress, and Wallaba	1,671,250	1,671	1,065,244	1,171	551,400	827
Shingles, cedar, and pine	598,350	299	337,730	202	180,600	108
Wood hoops	260,315	1,301	293,140	1,758	116,310	726
„ staves	168,499	1,347	169,209	1,353	196,017	1,764
	packets		packets		packets	
„ shocks without heads	6,098	914	3,798	759	4,704	1,176
„ shocks with heads	940	188	1,067	268	1,289	354
	—	13,608	—	11,306	—	8,015

Articles.	1872.		1873.		1874.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	bushels	£	bushels	£	bushels	£
Corn - - - -	46,700	9,340	28,358	7,089	25,834	6,458
Oats - - -	1,609	321	1,350	337	1,084	271
	lbs.		lbs.		lbs.	
Oil Cake - - -	327,085	1,635	449,208	2,246	219,240	1,096
	—	11,296	—	9,672	—	7,835
Unenumerated articles	—	68,355	—	62,761	—	38,584

Criminal Statistics.

The total number of offences committed during the year 1874 was 4,385, being 323 less than those committed during the previous year. Owing, however, to the destitution prevailing generally among the labouring population, there was a great and marked increase in the number of persons convicted of prædial larceny, the convictions under this head being more than double those of any of the previous four years. It is, however, satisfactory to be able to state that of the total 4,385 cases, 4,337 were of a summary nature, and that among the 48 convictions in the superior courts, there were but 7 for offences against the person, a number contrasting most favourably with the three preceding years, in which the convictions under this head were respectively 21, 16, and 13.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) EDWIN BAYNES,
Colonial Secretary.

Governor Berkeley, C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. KITTS.

No. 12.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Leeward Islands,
Antigua, June 15, 1875.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Presidency of St. Kitts for the year 1874, together with a Report from the President.

The Auditor-General states that Mr. Moir's remarks upon the revenue and expenditure of the year are correct. His Report also shows how a balance to the credit of the Colony of 21,921*l.* on the 31st March, 1871, has been gradually absorbed, and further converted into a deficit on the 31st December, 1874, of 6,130*l.*

With the view of equalizing the revenue and expenditure, an Excise duty on rum manufactured in the Island has been imposed, but it is too soon yet to calculate the probable result. It is hoped,

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however, that the proceeds of this tax, conjointly with the recurrence of favourable seasons, may tend to restore financial prosperity.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Carnarvon, &c. &c. &c.

GEORGE BERKELEY, Governor.

Enclosure in No. 19.

Auditor-General to Colonial Secretary.

Auditor-General's Office,
June 5, 1875.

SIR,

I have the honour to return Mr. Moir's Report on the St. Kitts Blue Book, and to report that the statement of the revenue and expenditure for 1874 is correct; but I have not the means here of comparing the total revenue and expenditure for the ten years ended 31st December, 1873.

On the 31st March, 1871, the amount to the credit of the Treasury of St. Kitts, exclusive of special accounts, was 21,921*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* This amount has been gradually absorbed, partly by the excess of ordinary expenditure over the ordinary revenue, and by the expenditure on the Basseterre Waterworks, leaving a deficiency on the 31st December, 1874, of 6,130*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*, which was in part met by borrowing the amount at credit of the Immigration Account.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) P. BURNS, Auditor-General.

Government Office, May 24, 1875.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of this Presidency for the year 1874.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

2. Under the provisions of Acts Nos. 8 and 9 of 1874, the fees, formerly paid to the Judge and to the Registrar of the Supreme Court, were made payable into the Treasury for the use of the Presidency, salaries in lieu thereof having been appropriated to these officers. These laws took effect from the 2nd day of September in that year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue of the Presidency for the year 1874 from all sources was 22,421*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, and the expenditure appears in the comparative yearly statement in the Blue Book to have been 27,764*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*; but to that latter amount must be added the sum of 3,168*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, which was due for public services rendered in the previous year, and which, although actually paid in 1874, was, in compliance with the Governor's instructions, and with the view of in future carrying into effect the Colonial Regulation No. 340A, written back under the several heads of expenditure for the year 1873, in order that the year's exact expenditure for 1874 might be capable of strict comparison with that authorized in the annual estimates.

4. The revenue for 1874 had been estimated at 28,587*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, but, owing to the reason given in the fourth paragraph of my last Blue Book Report, the sugar crop fell far short of the anticipated

quantity, and the consequence was a still further reduction of the available cash balance in the Treasury.

5. I was enabled, however, to keep the expenditure within the amount voted for that purpose, for while the original and supplementary estimates authorized payments to the amount of 29,953*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*, the total disbursements reached, as has been above stated, only 27,764*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*

6. The total receipts and expenditure for the last two years will, therefore, when corrected as explained, stand as follows:—

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1873 - - -	24,748	18	10	37,593	7	4
1874 - - -	22,421	13	4	27,764	13	1
Decrease - £	2,327	5	6	9,828	14	3

7. But as the expenditure of the year 1873 is thus rendered exceptional, I think it right to give the following Tables, showing the actual receipts and expenditure of the Presidency for the ten years ended the 31st December, 1873, with an explanation of the principal causes of the gradual extinction of the balance which formerly existed to the credit of the Colony.

TABLE I.

A STATEMENT showing the actual REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the PRESIDENCY for the last Ten Years.

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			Excess of Receipts over the Expenditure.			Excess of Expenditure over the Receipts.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1864 - -	19,445	5	6	21,257	5	4	—			1,811	19	10
1865 - - -	25,076	17	3	22,259	7	10	2,817	9	5	—		
1866 - -	24,504	12	5	24,925	17	6	—			421	5	1
1867 - - -	26,317	1	7	26,092	17	6	224	4	1	—		
1868 - -	33,897	0	10	30,519	16	11	3,377	3	11	—		
1869 - - -	29,812	1	2	27,584	2	6	2,227	18	8	—		
1870 - -	31,457	17	8	26,721	4	6	4,736	13	2	—		
1871 - - -	31,399	15	9	34,998	0	6	—			3,598	4	9
1872 - -	26,364	6	0	32,420	7	8	—			6,056	1	8
1873 - - -	24,748	18	10	37,593	7	4	—			12,844	8	6
	273,123	17	0	284,372	7	7	13,383	9	3	24,731	19	10

'8. In 1867 a special tax of 25 per cent. was imposed on the import duty, the export duty, and on licences, in order to raise an amount calculated to be sufficient to meet the expense of introducing a better supply of water into the town of Basseterre.

From these sources there was collected:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1867 - - - - -	1,217	3	2
1868 - - - - - -	5,074	14	4
1869 - - - - -	4,484	9	9
1870 - - - - - -	3,248	19	2
	£14,025	6	5

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9. In the above Table, it would appear that during the four years mentioned there was an aggregate receipt over expenditure of 10,565*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* But this was entirely owing to the collections under the foregoing special tax, imposed for a special object, and had that special tax not been imposed, there would actually have been an aggregate deficiency of 3,459*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* on the four years from 1867 to 1870, both inclusive.

10. What then was the state of the Treasury of this Island up to the close of the year 1870? Deducting 14,025*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, which, as stated, was a special collection, from the ordinary income, we have a total receipt of 176,485*l.* 10*s.*, against a total expenditure of 179,360*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*; or an excess of expenditure over revenue of 2,875*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* for the years 1864 to 1870, both inclusive.

11. In the three following years, however, the expenditure upon the waterworks is thus shown in the Treasury books:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1871	7,369	7	11
1872	3,161	2	9
1873	3,576	14	7
	14,107	5	3
Add preliminary expense of survey, Captain Warburton's Report, opening track, &c.	1,080	1	4
	£15,187	6	7

or 1,162*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* in excess, up to that date, of the sum actually collected in the four years 1867 to 1870 for that purpose, which had consequently to be paid, in addition to 1,089*l.* 3*s.* since spent on these works, out of the general revenue, in all 16,276*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*, or a total excess of expenditure over the collections of 2,251*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*

12. With these explanations, then, we have for the ten years 1864 to 1873:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
An expenditure of	284,372	7	7
And a revenue of	273,023	17	0
Or an excess of expenditure over revenue of	£11,348	10	7

13. Again, putting aside the special receipts (14,025*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*) on account of the waterworks, the revenue for the same ten years would be 258,998*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*, or an average annual revenue of 25,899*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*

14. In like manner, very legitimately excluding the special expenditure for the same purpose (15,187*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*), and the arrears which were written back from 1874 (3,168*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*), together 18,356*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*, we have a total expenditure of 266,016*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*, or an average annual expenditure of 26,601*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*

15. Before concluding this portion of my Report, I give a memorandum, which was prepared by the Receiver-General, and laid before the Legislative Assembly in the month of August, 1874,

showing at that date to what causes, in his opinion, was attributable the gradual absorption of the balance in the Treasury, together with Tables of the revenue and expenditure for the years 1871 to 1873 in detail.

RETURN No. 1.

MEMORANDUM showing to what causes the deficit in the FINANCES of the ISLAND may be principally attributed:—

	£	s.	d.
Short collection in year 1871 and 1873, as compared with the three preceding years, less cavalry tax—848*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* - -	1,452	15	7
Extraordinary expenditure:—			
Grant for repairs of houses of the poor damaged by hurricane of 1871 - - -	1,500	0	0
Grants for a hospital at Sandy Point - -	776	15	3
Grants for extra relief to the poor throughout the Island - - - - -	538	18	1
Paid for traction engine, &c. - - -	1,194	9	3
Paid for cavalry in excess of the sum collected - - - - - - - -	1,094	11	0
Paid for repairs of ecclesiastical establishments - - - - - - -	2,381	0	6
Paid over and above the *total* amount collected for waterworks - - - -	1,298	1	10
Paid pensions, Treasurer, Auditor-General, and President of Assembly - - -	1,624	3	0
	£11,860	14	8

RETURN No. 2.

REVENUE, ST. KITTS—Years 1871, 1872, 1873.

Heads of Receipts.	Amounts, 1871.			Amounts, 1872.			Amounts, 1873.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Import duties - - - -	15,196	15	3	14,375	2	10	13,100	2	5
Export „ - - - - - -	3,416	6	11	1,774	7	3	2,214	19	6
„ tonnage - - - -	1,877	13	3	880	9	1	1,127	2	4
Cavalry tax - - - - -	2,958	14	4	1,479	3	4	1,940	13	3
Tonnage and package - -	1,958	7	11	1,303	12	7	1,260	6	8
Liquor licences - - -	2,541	5	0	2,493	15	0	2,208	15	0
Game „ - - - - -	2	0	0	3	0	0	6	0	0
Boatmen, porters', and butchers' licences - - - - - -	51	9	2	50	0	0	48	15	0
Dog licences - - -	48	15	0	39	11	8	59	3	4
Impt. Town Basse[illegible]re (Land sold) - - - - - -	15	0	0	—			—		
Fines, fees, and forfeitures - -	1,091	19	5	931	3	6	940	18	6
Post office - - - - - -	224	17	11	210	1	6	213	1	1
Reimbursement B. B. [illegible]m -	1,136	15	11	2,047	4	9	1,122	17	5
Miscellaneous receipts - -	879	15	8	776	14	6	506	4	4
	31,399	15	9	26,364	6	0	24,748	18	10
	£82,513	0	7						

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Return No. 3.

Expenditure, St. Kitts—Years 1871, 1872, 1873.

Heads of Expenditure.	1871.			1872.			1873.			Total, 3 years.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Secretary to Government	500	0	0	166	13	4	—			666	13	4
Auditor-General	400	0	0	200	0	0	—			600	0	0
President, &c.	—			600	0	0	965	14	6	1,565	14	6
General Government, Leeward Islands	—			492	7	6	756	17	3	1,249	4	9
Legislative department	254	19	5	150	0	0	100	0	0	504	19	5
Treasury ditto	558	9	10	285	4	11	1,254	16	7	2,098	11	4
Revenue ditto	1,083	14	9	1,049	1	11	347	17	2	2,480	13	10
Revenue services, E.E.	—			42	12	0	—			42	12	0
Roads	378	15	0	401	5	0	393	11	10	1,173	11	10
Roads, streets, bridges	2,463	3	10	2,279	3	6	3,636	13	6	8,379	0	10
Post office	150	0	0	115	11	10	132	7	11	397	19	9
S. cemetery	81	18	2	86	11	9	82	11	1	251	1	0
Ditto incidental	25	0	0	25	0	0	25	0	0	75	0	0
Sanitary and registration	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0	0	150	0	0
Ditto incidental	804	11	9	801	13	1	705	15	6	2,312	0	4
Works and buildings	100	0	0	16	13	4	—			116	13	4
Ditto repairs, works, &c.	1,311	17	11	1,101	10	10	1,716	3	2	4,129	11	11
Rents	183	3	8	187	6	9	178	3	8	548	14	1
Judicial	1,793	16	5	1,468	2	3	1,692	11	9	4,954	10	5
Administration of justice	382	18	7	390	4	9	358	10	1	1,131	13	5
Ecclesiastical	1,897	6	4	1,799	12	3	1,873	10	0	5,570	8	7
Ditto organists, sextons, repairs	195	6	8	2,381	5	3	303	13	7	2,880	5	6
Education	414	15	0	539	10	0	793	17	0	1,747	2	0
Ditto for teachers, prizes, books, &c.	678	10	3	564	13	4	322	16	4	1,565	19	11
Medical relief	1,399	19	11	1,400	0	0	1,350	0	0	4,149	19	1
Police	1,568	3	5	1,531	16	4	1,560	9	10	4,660	9	7
Police and gaols	1,398	3	6	1,600	11	7	1,892	16	2	4,891	11	3
Fire company	328	9	1	248	0	6	275	6	0	851	15	7
Pensions, &c.	166	0	10	745	5	4	887	9	10	1,798	16	0
Charitable allowances	1,031	17	3	597	1	6	49	16	10	1,678	15	7
Hospital	1,939	7	2	2,408	8	9	3,032	3	3	7,379	19	2
S. P. hospital	—			293	12	9	402	7	3	696	0	0
Town warden	—			249	0	6	358	19	3	607	19	10
Federal council	—			77	12	6	10	8	4	88	0	10
Miscellaneous payments	1,266	5	2	1,036	16	9	1,353	17	9	3,656	19	2
Interest	1,004	11	3	435	7	6	414	0	0	1,853	18	9
Waterworks	7,369	7	11	3,161	2	9	3,576	14	7	14,107	5	8
Militia	2,432	11	3	2,520	7	7	2,520	3	4	7,473	1	11
Basseterre building loan	1,384	16	2	669	8	10	1,026	17	4	3,081	2	4
Drawbacks, &c.	—			251	10	11	23	7	8	274	18	7
Arrears carried back from 1874	—			—			3,168	19	8	3,168	19	8
£	34,998	0	6	32,420	7	8	37,593	7	4	105,011	15	6

16. I have been thus particular in examining these figures, because it is a favourite exclamation with those who continue dissatisfied with the Federation of these Islands, that our annual deficit must be attributable to that measure alone. Now what is the truth? The

sum voted for the general government of the Leeward Islands in our estimates for 1875 amounts to 1,700*l.*

The salaries paid before Federation were as follows:—

	£	£
Secretary		1,700
Secretary to Government	400	
Auditor-General	300	
*Clerk (half)	50	
Chief Justice	600	
and fees	250	
Attorney-General	300	
		1,900
Or a saving of		£200

But in the middle of 1872 the Legislature sanctioned an annual expenditure for certain purposes, viz.:—

	£
For Sandy Point Hospital	500
For relief of out-door poor	740
And if it be legitimate to here add the President's salary of	800
And authorized, but not yet paid, for telegraph service	800
We have a total of	£2,840

Which, added to tne previous annual estimates, fully accounts for the increased liability of the Presidency; for the payment of salaries in lieu of fees, the recent additions to the pension list, and the per contra payment of fees into the Treasury, and other small savings, about balance one another.

17. And it is a painful fact that three consecutive years of very dry weather has so diminished our anticipated crops, that, carefully as the estimated expenditure may be framed, the Executive has not had it within his power to meet the authorized disbursements out of the annual revenue, raised principally from import and export duties, which to a great extent expand or contract together.

18. Measures, however, have been taken during the course of this year with the view of meeting the anticipated deficiency in the revenue; and the experience of the last nine months of 1875 will enable us to form an opinion as to the wisdom of the method adopted, or whether some other mode of securing the necessary funds for efficiently carrying on the Government may be preferable; and in the meantime, authority has been given to meet the immediate demands on the Treasury by borrowing available public funds, lodged in the Colonial Bank, at interest, in the hope that a few favourable seasons will enable us to repay the amount borrowed, and so avoid the raising of a loan or increased taxation.

* Clerk now receives 50*l.* as clerk to the pre-auditor, or one half of his former salary.

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Legislation.

19. Sixteen Acts received the Royal assent, amongst which were:—

No. 7. To disestablish and to regulate the gradual disendowment of the Church of England in Saint Christopher and Anguilla, and for other purposes.

Population.

20. The following Tables I have prepared in as careful a manner as a first attempt in this Presidency enabled me to accomplish. In the future returns of "Classification of Deaths," I have made arrangements to render fuller information, as to the ages above 14, when death occurred; and when two or more years shall have passed important information will be obtained, and the materials for comparison collected.

21. The census returns in April, 1871, gave the population as - - - - -		28,169
The Registrar's returns give the births since that date as - - - - - -	4,682	
And the deaths - - - - - -	4,192	
Or an increase of - - - - - -		490
Showing the present probable population by natural increase to be - - - -		28,659

22. There were 116 marriages registered during the year, and there were 434 successful cases of vaccination returned.

23. The corrected returns up to the 31st December, 1873, gave a population of 28,466, and during 1874 there were registered 1,203 births, or 42·96 per 1,000; which I believe to be above the West India average; and 1,010 deaths, or 35·48 per 1,000 of the population—or, as nearly as possible, 0·75 per cent. excess of births over deaths.

24. When the Registrar-General of Great Britain writes:—"Whenever the mortality exceeds 17 in 1·000 there is much "sanitary work to be done"—and we find, as above, that our death-rate is just double those figures, one is naturally anxious to know the cause.

25. On examination of the Table I have prepared, I find that out of the 1,010 deaths, no less than 401 occurred to children under one year of age, 56 of whom were premature, and 109 of whom were still-born. The largest number of deaths from any one cause, numbering 313, are classed under "Diseases of the Stomach, Liver, "and other Organs of Digestion," from which infants and persons over 14 years of age appear to have suffered equally severely.

26. There is little doubt also that from gross carelessness and ignorance, many children are lost in parturition, notwithstanding the provision the country has made for the attendance of skilled medical aid; and the subsequent mismanagement of infant life by inexperienced girls, whose maternal functions are performed in a perfunctory manner to their illegitimate offspring, are, together, grounds

sufficient to account for the large proportion of mortality at that age, rather than for any suspicion of intentional cruelty or foul play being practised.

27. At the same time, it must not be forgotten that even married female labourers are weighted with many difficulties and sore trials from which their more fortunate sisters, in better social circumstances, are exempt. Having one or more children in their little hut, both parents are compelled to go, often to considerable distances, to their work, the practice generally being to lock the door on the children, when they may cry their little hearts out, without any food or aid, until the return of their mother; when fagged and exhausted, and perhaps without sufficient nourishment for herself, I am told she has sometimes to supply the craving of her infant from an inadequate or tainted source, while insufficient and unassimilative food is given to the others.

28. These and other causes, such as over-crowding at night, when every cranny in their dwellings, which might admit fresh air, is most carefully stopped up, are additional reasons, and undoubtedly contribute to much of the infant mortality unhappily so prevalent in the West India Islands, and from which St. Christopher cannot claim exemption.

Ecclesiastical.

29. Acts No. 7 and 13 of 1874 provide for the disestablishment and regulate the gradual disendowment of the Church of England in Saint Christopher and Anguilla, the rights of the existing rectors, and the annual votes for payment of the salaries of the present organists and sextons, so long as the present rectors shall continue in the care of their several parishes, are reserved.

The right to hold assemblies, synods, or conventions, and to elect representatives thereto, for framing constitutions and regulations is secured. A Church Council is formed, consisting of the bishop, the clergy, and representatives of the laity, the latter being elected by baptized laymen of 21 years and upwards. Three laymen are appointed by the Church Council, with the approval of the Governor, a corporation, under the style of "Church Commissioners," with power to receive, hold, manage, sell, or otherwise dispose of, by all lawful ways and means, all kinds of Church property, real and personal, and the Governor may vest in such corporate body such property, provided that they shall not sell or exchange the churches, church grounds, or parsonages. and that if any of the places of worship or houses remain unused for more than one year, it shall be lawful for the Governor to resume possession and apply them to any religious or educational purpose; the rights to vaults and burial places being reserved to the owners thereof.

No vacancies have occurred since the passing of the Acts in question.

Education.

30. I subjoin the report by the Inspector of Schools, which is the last of a strictly local character which will be submitted, Mr. Marshal

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having accepted the appointment of Inspector under the Federal Act of the General Council, which came into operation on the 1st of January in the present year.

Imports and Exports.

31. The value of the imports and exports for the two last years was as detailed in the following Table:—

Countries.	Imports from						Exports to.					
	1873.			1874.			1873.			1874.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom and others	75,612	6	0	64,309	8	11	155,375	19	9	119,829	7	10
British West Indies - -	21,716	2	8	18,739	17	9	9,258	8	9	9,852	14	6
British North America - -	9,684	19	9	5,158	1	2	1,620	5	11	1,377	7	0
Foreign countries - -	—			—			—			—		
Foreign West Indies - -	5,290	15	6	5,085	16	3	11,570	6	9	10,793	3	1
United States of America -	50,051	8	6	35,517	10	7	2,138	8	1	4,290	7	0
	162,355	12	5	128,810	14	8	179,963	9	3	146,142	19	5
	128,810	14	8				146,142	19	5			
Showing a decrease of £	33,544	17	9				33,820	9	10			

These figures tell their own tale—a short crop, little circulation of money, and diminished importations. The exportation of the principal articles of local manufacture for the last five years was:—

Years.	Sugar.	Value.			Rum.	Value.			Molasses.	Value.			Total Values.		
	hhds.	£	s.	d.	puns.	£	s.	d.	gals.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1870	12,961	219,224	10	6	788	7,092	0	0	362,093	16,093	0	0	242,409	10	6
1871	14,202	226,321	13	4	907	8,157	10	0	445,372	19,792	10	0	254,271	13	4
1872	7,100	113,396	13	4	304	2,736	0	0	164,948	7,331	0	0	123,463	13	4
1873	9,315	148,860	0	0	588	5,296	0	0	169,065	7,514	0	0	161,670	0	0
1874	8,317	110,564	3	4	1,195	13,445	17	6	173,420	6,503	5	0	130,513	5	10
	51,895	818,367	0	6	3,782	36,727	7	6	1,314,898	57,233	15	0	912,328	3	0

The other produce shipped consisted of:—

Salt.	Potatoes.	Arrowroot.	Tous-les-Mois.	Preserves.	Pickles.
bushels.	bushels.	lbs.	lbs.	gals.	gals.
13,576	4,846	1,500	44,834	840	6,300

Shipping

32. The tonnage employed inwards was:—

With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		Men.
Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	
544	19,473	214	5,516	738	24,989	2,998

The tonnage outwards was—

With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		Men.
Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	
655	20,479	100	4,092	755	24,571	3,060

Considerable improvements are being effected by the enterprising lessee of the Salt Ponds. One crushing and one grinding machine have been erected, and very fine and beautiful table salt is now made which, when it becomes more generally known, will to a great extent supersede the article now imported. The crushed salt is manufactured for the North American markets, and finds a ready sale in the provinces, where the curing of fish is practised, and I trust that by this means a reciprocal trade in the commodities produced by each may spring up, and be encouraged, to the mutual advantage of North and South. Preparations are also being made for running out a jetty, and establishing a careening ground near the beach, which is well adapted for the purpose, and which will prove a great benefit to vessels requiring cleaning and temporary repairs under the water line.

Gaols and Prisoners.

33. The total number of persons committed to gaol in 1874 was:—

Men - - - - - - -	384
Women - - - - - - -	129
Juveniles under 14 - - - -	16
	529

Of whom there were previously convicted:—

Once - - - - - - -	58
Twice - - - - - - -	40
Three or more times - - - -	151
	249

The daily average number in prison was a little over 77, and there were two deaths during the year. The total cost of this establishment for 1874 was 1,174*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* The gaol building has for many years been reported as deficient in accommodation, especially for women. After careful examination of the premises, and finding that the food for the prisoners was supplied by a contractor, I caused, shortly after my arrival, the removal of a stone kitchen from the yard attached to the women's quarters, and the erection of an open shed under which the female prisoners are employed, in compliance with the prison rules. This has added considerably to the improved circulation of air in the yard and cells, and the introduction of Moule's dry-earth system here, as in the other public institutions, which I have carried into effect, has contributed to the cleanliness and health of both divisions of the gaol.

ST. KITTS.

The men's quarters I found infested with vermin, and I ascertained that neither paint nor lime-wash had been applied to any portion of the gaol for upwards of eight years. The destruction of the vermin and the lime washing were proceeded with at once, and I have but recently completed the repainting of the whole interior of the gaol, the hospital, and the gaolers' quarters.

Criminal Statistics.

34. Information under this head has now been supplied for 1873 and 1874, and the comparison gives the following results :—

Offences.	No. of Persons summarily convicted.		No. sent for Trial to Supreme Court.	
	1873.	1874.	1873.	1874.
Against the person	334	591	28	24
Prædial larceny	90	68	—	—
Against property other than prædial larceny	276	385	40	41
Against Master and Servants Act	102	143	—	—
Other offences	1,198	1,072	13	29
	2,000	2,259	81	94

The following punishments were inflicted by the magistrates on the persons so summarily convicted :—

	1873	1874
Fine	1,544	1,793
Imprisonment in lieu of fine	274	286
Peremptory imprisonment	150	129
Whipping	6	3
Bound over	26	48
	2,000	2,259

The number discharged for want of prosecution, &c., was 1758, and the number of cases dismissed on the merits was 1,099.

The number of convictions in the Supreme Court were :—

	1873	1874
For offences against the person	17	10
„ Prædial larceny	10	12
„ Offences against property other than prædial larceny	8	26
„ Other offences	1	2
	36	50
The number of persons acquitted	22	20

Hospitals.

35. The Cunningham and Sandy Point Hospitals continue in the same efficient condition as when I last reported on them. I have taken occasion to visit these, and the other public institutions of the Presi-

dency, several times during the year, and I was glad to hear a very favourable opinion of those visited expressed by the Governor after his Excellency's recent inspection. The following Table gives a synopsis of the transactions in the two hospitals during the past year:—

	No. remaining in Hospital on Jan. 1, 1874.		No. admitted during the year 1874.		No. of Patients discharged.						No. of Patients who died during 1874.		No. of Patients remaining on Dec. 31, 1874.	
					Cured.		Relieve		Not Improved.					
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
In Cunningham Hospital -	59	45	137	93	79	45	21	14	1	—	29	31	70	44
„ Sandy Point Hospital -	8	8	37	15	25	9	4	2	—	—	7	4	10	7
	67	53	174	108	104	54	25	16	1	—	36	35	80	51

The cost of the two institutions for 1874 was:—

	£	s.	d.
For salaries at Cunningham Hospital - -	355	0	0
„ maintenance, including medicines - -	1,804	8	8
„ salaries at Sandy Point Hospital - -	70	0	0
„ maintenance „ „ - -	428	15	11
	£2,658	4	7

36. The superintendent of the Cunningham Hospital continued the out-door relief to the sick poor and lepers, and the distressed and aged poor received a daily food supply from the kitchen established in 1873, and described in last year's Report, at an average annual cost of 3*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* each, for about one hundred who were placed on the list.

Present and Future.

37. From reliable information imparted to me by experienced proprietors and attorneys, as well as from personal observation, and my knowledge of the produce shipped to date, I am induced to believe that my estimate of this year's exports will be realized, while the young canes appear vigorous, giving good promise for the future. But as next year's crop is very much dependent on the rain which may fall about the month of October, no reliable prognostication can as yet be made as to what will be the result of this year's preparatory cultivation.

I have, &c.,

ALEX. W. MOIR, President.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. KITTS.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1874, AND ON THE CHILDREN'S PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

Laid before His Honour the President, January 4, 1875.

Present the following Council of Advice.

The Hon. and Ven. the Archdeacon.
Rev. T. M. Chambers, Rev. A. L. Thaeler,
H. W. Marshal, Esquire.

SIR,

As it was reasonably certain that the quarter just concluded would be the last under the existing arrangements as to our elementary schools, I was the less concerned at having, from extra calls upon my time and from somewhat critical health, to find myself constrained to leave the more out-lying schools unvisited. In those visited, some three-fourths of the whole number, I observed the condition of things usual for the time of year; and, though met with accounts of much sickness prevailing, and of slackness of work during the earlier part of the quarter, I did not notice, nor do the returns show, any falling off in attendance average.

From the Christmas examination the total number of entries was two in excess of those for the year before, while in separate subjects the entries, and, in spite of too numerous absentees, the numbers examined, were in most instances greater also than for that year.

In reading and spelling, the average performances fell distinctly short of the standard of previous years as regards style of reading; and in the spelling too many mistakes were made to be satisfactory, I was enabled, however, honestly to bestow the number of prizes originally apportioned to these subjects, after merely reducing the third prize to equal value with the fourth.

In writing, the boys showed a good average, both as to those who gained prizes, and generally; the girls who gained the two equal first prizes wrote far better than at any previous examination, but the work of the few other girls competing was simply worthless.

In the boys' arithmetic no good work was done except by those who gained prizes, and while tnese latter acquitted themselves creditably, there was a lack of the briskness and spirit which gave special interest to this subject in 1873 and 1872. As regards the girls, I might simply transcribe my paragraph on the examination of 1873.

In dictation, 13 competitors out of the 17 present did passably, though no one whatever was quite free from flaw; out of the remaining 4, the work of 3 was beneath contempt.

In geography, the prize-work was good, and only one of the competitors did discreditably.

History was fair, though no candidate, either in this subject, or in geography or scripture, came at all nearly up to the boy who the year before gained the first prize in geography and history, or to his brother who gained it in scripture.

The scripture was disappointing on the whole, but the full number of prizes fairly earned.

The sewing and darning standards are well known to be very high,

and from them the prize-work of this year did not notably deviate in either direction.

The date on which this Report is presented having brought us under the new order of the Federal Education Act, and placed myself also in a new position, it can hardly be inappropriate for me to devote a few lines to the prospect presented.

To schools which in themselves, as places of real instruction, deserve aid, I conceive that the system now called into operation will bring no pecuniary disadvantage, but rather the contrary, while recognizing and tending to improve their efficiency.

There are, however, in this Island, and doubtless in the others also, schools whose only claim to aid at present is that they may be better than absolutely no attempt at all to provide elementary instruction; such under the Federal system will no doubt have to bestir themselves, and to improve their condition, or else will, as time goes on, find themselves deservedly cut off from State aid.

At the outset, however, I feel confident that the Government generally will incline sufficiently towards leniency, to give all schools hitherto in receipt of Government aid a fair and reasonable chance of bringing themselves up to the requisite standards; while, as personally placed in charge of the introduction of the Federal Act, I can answer for my acting, so far as duty will permit, under the view just indicated.

Let it be borne in mind by all teachers, that development of intelligence is of much greater importance than storing a memory with crude facts, which generally turn out of no valuable application. Illustration of the truth of the last sentence has been invariably forthcoming at these Christmas examinations, to one whereof a portion of this Report has been devoted.

I have, &c.,

HENRY W. MARSHAL,

H. M. Inspector of Schools.

ABSTRACT OF SCHOOL RETURNS FOR QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1874.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

No.	Name of school.	No. on books.	Average.	Equal by law.	Fees.	Exempt.	Class.	Remarks.
					$ c.			
1	St. George's	98	75	62½	12 50	20	III.	
2	Salt Ponds	13	12	42	—	all	I.	
3	St. Peter's	70	45	45	10 01	—	I.	
4	St. Mary's	97	65	57½	11 68	10	II.	
5	Christ Church	59	42	42	7 48	8	I.	
6	St. John's	103	55	52½	8 36	17	II.	
7	Dieppe Bay	74	42	42	9 96	2	I.	
8	St. Paul's	73	45	45	7 68	42	I.	
9	St. Ann's	71	46	46	8 50	10	I.	
10	St. Thomas'	95	68	59	12 00	15	II.	
11	Old Road	96	67	58½	12 50	11	II.	
12	Trinity	108	70	60	13 20	17	II.	

WESLEYAN.

1	Basseterre juvenile -	85	52	51	10 12	5	II.
2	„ infant -	60	42	42	6 38	12	I.
3	Cayon - - -	63	42	42	9 60	3	I.
4	Tabernacle - - -	119	76	63	13 58	14	III.
5	Dieppe Bay - -	149	97	68	16 06	23	III.
6	St. Paul's - - -	121	89	66	17 50	12	III.
7	Sandy Point - -	128	65	57½	12 00	17	II.
8	Halfway Tree - -	75	48	48	8 40	9	I.
9	Old Road - -	94	46	46	10 00	8	I.
10	Palmet to Point - -	67	40	40	7 20	8	I.

MORAVIAN.

1	Basseterre juvenile -	88	63	56½	16 05	5	II.
2	„ infant -	71	48	48	7 04	16	I.
3	Irish Town - -	169	100	68¾	18 48	18	IV.
4	New Town - -	107	65	57½	11 76	12	II.
5	Bethesda - -	130	91	66½	21 11	8	I.
6	Estridge - - -	80	46	46	10 46	5	III.
7	Bethel - - -	120	75	62½	17 66	7	III.

Class I.	includes	schools	whose	average is below	50
„ II.	„	„	„		75
„ III.	„	„	„		100
„ IV.	„	„	„	not	100

Extracts from the Minutes of January 4, 1875, unanimously adopted and ordered to be printed with the returns and Report.

The Archdeacon proposed and the Rev. T. M. Chambers seconded :—"That the Inspector's peculiar connection with the "Council of Advice having by law terminated, the best thanks of the "Council be tendered to Mr. Marshal for the uniformly fair and "intelligent manner in which he has for eight years and a half "inspected and directed the schools under his charge; and that their "best wishes be presented to him for his future prosperity and "success."

HENRY W. MARSHAL, M.A.,
H.M. Inspector of Schools.

RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC EXAMINATION OF CHILDREN FROM THE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS, AT THE COURT HOUSE, CHRISTMAS, 1874.

FIRST DAY.

I. *Reading and Spelling.*

1st Prize, $3, Henrietta Abbott, Bas. Mor.
2nd „ 2, John Bloice, Bethel Mor.
3rd „ 1, George Steele, St. Mary's.
3rd „ 1, Ethel Phillips, Bas. Wes.

II. *Writing, Boys.*

1st Prize, $3, Charles Burroughs, Trinity.
2nd „ 2, John Bloice, Bethel Mor.
3rd „ 1, Alfred Hardtman, St. George's.

III. *Writing, Girls.*

1st Prize, $3, Ann E. Pitt, Bas. Mor.
1st „ 3, Miriam Burgundy, St. George's.

IV. *Arithmetic, Boys.*

1st Prize, $3, Joseph Seaton, Bas. Wes.
2nd „ 2, J. G. Archibald, Bas. Mor.
2nd „ 2, W. H. Woolward, St. George's.
4th „ 1, John Bloice, Bethel Moravian.
4th „ 1, James Burgundy, Bas. do.

V. *Arithmetic, Girls.*

Prize, $2, Miriam Burgundy, St. George's.

VI. *Dictation.*

1st Prize, $3, John Bloice, Bethel Moravian.
2nd „ 2, James Burgundy, Bas. do.
2nd „ 2, Prince Pogson, St. Mary's.
4th „ 1, George Steele, do.

SECOND DAY.

VII. *Geography.*

1st Prize, $3, John Bloice, Bethel Moravian.
2nd „ 2, Joseph Seaton, Bas. Wes.
3rd „ 2, Robert Fleming, Bas. Mor.
4th „ 1, Abraham Woods, Bas. Wes.

VIII. *History.*

1st Prize, $3, Augustus Henry, Trinity.
2nd „ 2, John Bloice, Bethel Moravian.
2nd „ 2, Robert Laws, Bas. Wesleyan.

IX. *Scripture.*

1st Prize, $3, John Bloice, Bethel Moravian.
2nd „ 2, Alfred Hardtman, St. George's.
3rd „ 2, W. H. Woolward, do.
4th „ 1, J. G. Archibald, Bas. Mor.

X. *Sewing* (*judged by a Committee of Ladies*).

1st Prize, $3, Therilda Duport, Bas. Wes.
2nd „ 2, Susannah Woodcock, Bas. Mor.
3rd „ 1, Agnes Boyd, do.

ST. KITTS.

XI. *Darning (judged by a Committee of Ladies).*

Prize, $3, Violet Ann Williams, Bas. Moravian.

To J. J. Harney, Teacher of Bethel Moravian School, a gratuity of $5 from his Honour the President and the Inspector of Schools for greatest aggregate of Prizes gained.

H. W. MARSHAL, M.A.,
H.M. Inspector of Schools.

SIERRA LEONE.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 13.

No. 13.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY of SIERRA LEONE to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sierra Leone,
April 8, 1875.

MY LORD,

IN the absence of the Governor-in-Chief at Sherbro, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship, by his direction, the return of the state of public health of Free Town and British Sherbro, for the quarter ending March 31, 1875.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. S. KENDALL,
for Governor Kortwright.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Dr. LOVELL to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

January, 1875.

Monthly Report on the Health of Freetown, for the information of His Excellency the Administrator-in-Chief.

The returns of diseases which have occurred in Freetown during the month of January show that the general state of health of the population has been fairly good, and that the number of deaths has been somewhat below the average. As usual, many cases of remittent and intermittent fever have occurred, but they have for the most part been of a mild type, and no deaths have resulted from that disease.

There were 10 cases treated in the Colonial Hospital, and 15 came under my notice in the town.

The most fatal of acute diseases amongst the population was inflammation of the lungs. Six cases were admitted into the Colonial Hospital, and many others came to my notice throughout the town, several of which proved fatal.

Several cases of small-pox were reported to me; only 2 cases of this disease were, however, treated in the small-pox hospital.

With the exception of small-pox no diseases of an infectious or contagious nature were brought to my notice either in Freetown or in the Colony during the month of January.

(Signed) FRANCIS LOVELL,
Colonial Surgeon.

Dr. LOVELL to The COLONIAL SECRETARY.

February, 1875.

Monthly Report on the Health of Sierra Leone and Sherbro for the information of His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief.

The general state of health of the population was fairly good. Remittent fever of a severe form was rife amongst the European crews of the vessels which arrived from the rivers. Many of these cases were admitted into the Colonial Hospital in a critical state: at the end of the month no death was recorded. The most prevalent disease amongst the native population was inflammation of the lungs, which also proved fatal in many cases.

Cases of small-pox occurred as usual; two cases terminated fatally in the small-pox hospital at Kissy. With this exception no diseases of an infectious or contagious nature occurred during the month of February.

The returns from British Sherbro show that the general state of health of the population in that district was not so favourable as during the preceding month. Remittent fever of a severe type was rife amongst the inhabitants as well as in the ships in the river.

Cases of small-pox also occurred, but with this exception, no disease of an infectious or contagious nature occurred during the month of February.

(Signed) FRANCIS LOVELL,
Colonial Surgeon.

Dr. SMITH to The COLONIAL SECRETARY.

March, 1857.

Monthly Report on the Health of Sierra Leone and British Sherbro, for the information of His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief.

The general state of health of the population during the month of March was good. Ten cases of remittent fever were admitted into the Colonial Hospital from the European crew of the vessels in harbour. No deaths; the most prevalent disease amongst the native population was chronic rheumatism. Only one case of small-pox was admitted into the hospital, and he is convalescent.

Among the European residents in Freetown one fatal case of pernicious remittent fever occurred.

Dr. Davies' return from Sherbro complains still that nothing has yet been done to improve the sanitary condition of that place, and there has been no general sickness among the shipping European residents and native population.

The small-pox hospital there is empty, the last case having been discharged on the 23rd.

(Signed) ROBERT SMITH,
Assist.-Colonial Surgeon,
pro Colonial Surgeon.

The Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

GRIQUALAND WEST.

No. 14.

No. 14.

Governor Sir H. BARKLY, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Cape Town,
March 23, 1875.

MY LORD,

WITH reference to my Despatch of November 24 last, I have now the honour to enclose copy of a communication which has just reached me from the Lieutenant-Governor of Griqualand West, forwarding a Report intended, in terms of the 271st clause of the Colonial Regulations, to accompany the Blue Book of the Province for the year 1873.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY BARKLY,
Governor.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 9.

Sir,

Lieut.-Governor's Office, Kimberley,
March 9, 1875.

When, on November 7 last, I caused the Blue Book for 1873 to be transmitted to your Excellency, I was not able to forward with it the Report from myself, which the 271st clause, section 4, of Rules and Regulations for the Colonial Service, contemplates its being accompanied by.

2. I have since prepared a Report such as I apprehend is desired, and which, having regard to the infancy of the Province and the difficulty of procuring authentic information, will, I trust, be considered sufficient. This Report I transmit herewith.

3. The Blue Book for last year is now in course of preparation, and will soon be completed, and, when transmitting it, I shall report further upon the several matters contained in it, as required by the Rules and Regulations before mentioned.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) R. SOUTHEY,
Lieut.-Governor.

REPORT OF THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, FOR THE YEAR 1874.

Griqualand West became British territory by cession from the Griqua Government in the year 1871, and was proclaimed to have been ceded by the said Griqua Government and to have been accepted by Her Majesty the Queen by His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly, Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, and Her Majesty's High Commissioner in South Africa, on October 27, in that year.

2. In the previous year, 1870, the existence of large deposits of diamonds along the banks of the Vaal River had been so conclusively proved as to attract to Griqualand thousands of Cape and Natal Colonists, together with some practical "diggers" from Australia, and persons of every rank and condition from England, Europe, and America; and it was the value thus given to the lands which possibly gave rise to the action taken by the two neighbouring Republics, the Orange Free State and the South African Republic, with a view to the absorption and division between them of a large extent of Griqua and other native territory. This, if allowed to be accomplished, would probably have had the effect of placing many thousands of Her Majesty's subjects, who had come into Griqualand to dig for diamonds, in a position of hostility either towards one or other of the Republics, or towards the Griquas and the other native peoples, between whom and Her Majesty's Government very friendly relations had continuously existed for many years previously. In any case it was impossible to allow those British subjects to remain an independent and lawless community close to a British Colony; and on November 15, 1870, the then Acting Governor of the Cape Colony and High Commissioner, Lieut.-General Hay, issued a Commission of the Peace, under the provisions of the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 26 and 27 Vict. cap. 14, in favour of John Campbell, Esq., an experienced British officer, at the time Resident Magistrate of Cape Town, and directed him to proceed to Griqualand to maintain order amongst the British subjects, and between them and the Boers and natives.

3. Mr. Campbell acted under that Commission, and under another Commission issued in his favour by the Griqua Government, giving him power to take cognizance of civil cases, from the end of December, 1870, until the before-named October 27, 1871, when by proclamation of Sir Henry Barkly, No. 73, of 1871, the Government of the territory was vested in three Commissioners, acting under Her Majesty's High Commissioner, and Mr. Campbell was appointed one of the Commissioners.

4. Prior to the acceptance of the Griqua territory by Her Majesty, differences had existed between the Griqua Government and the Government of the Orange Free State respecting boundaries, and endeavours had been made to induce the latter Government to allow those differences to be settled by arbitration, which had failed of success owing to the unwillingness of the Free State to agree to any plan of arbitation which did not concede to it an undue amount of favour. In consequence of this, and while leaving the questions in dispute still open for settlement by fair arbitration, the Governor, Sir Henry Barkly, declared the boundary line between the Free State and the territory ceded to Her Majesty by the Griquas to be that which had existed and been formerly agreed upon between East and West Griqualand prior to the existence of the Orange Free State, viz. from Ramah on the Orange River viâ David's Grave, to Platberg. This was the eastern boundary of the territory. The northern and western boundaries had previously been determined and defined by the "Keate award," and the southern boundary (between Griqualand and the Cape Colony) was the Orange River, about which no dispute existed.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

5. The area between these boundaries is in extent about 17,800 square miles, and its population prior to the discovery of diamonds consisted of:

1st. The Griquas and other native peoples.

2nd. Englishmen, and other persons of European extraction, to whom farms had been assigned by the Griqua Government in a portion of the territory designated South Albania.

3rd. Citizens of the Orange Free State, who had acquired lands in the territory by what the Griqua Government held to be unlawful and irregular means.

6. This population was chiefly and almost exclusively occupied in stock farming, and although in many parts the lands are capable of extensive cultivation being carried on upon them, very little was done in that way, which may be accounted for partly, if not entirely, by the unsettled tenure on which the lands were held, in consequence of the boundary disputes with the Orange Free State.

7. Simultaneously with the issue of the proclamation for incorporating these territories with the British Empire, other proclamations were issued providing for its Government, the administration of the law, and the conduct of public business, pending its annexation to the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, which at that time was contemplated. Circumstances arose which prevented this intention from being carried into effect in 1872, when the discovery of the four diamond mines known as the "Dry Diggings," in the flat grass country between the Vaal and Modder Rivers, had collected a large population there, which being impatient of control, and greatly dissatisfied with a form of Government which necessitated a reference to Cape Town, more than 600 miles distant, on every question of importance, assumed such an attitude that in September the Governor, who had visited the Fields early in 1871, again proceeded to Griqualand, and finally recommended that the territory should be formed into a separate and distinct Government, under a Lieutenant-Governor, and that a Constitution should be granted to it. This recommendation was acceded to by Her Majesty, and I became the first Lieutenant-Governor in July, 1873, having acted as Administrator of the Government from January 10 to that date.

8. The letters patent by which the Constitution was granted, and these territories thereby created a separate and distinct Province, bear date at Westminster, the 7th day of February, in the thirty-sixth year of Her Majesty's reign; and they provide among other things: That the Governor of the Cape Colony, or Officer Administering the Government of that Colony, shall be Governor of Griqualand West; that in the absence of the said Governor from the Province, the Government shall be administered by a Lieutenant-Governor, appointed by warrant under Her Majesty's sign manual and signet; that for advising the said Governor there shall be an Executive Council, consisting of such persons as shall be duly appointed to it; and that there shall also be within the Province a Legislative Council, composed of four non-elective and four elective members, which Council is empowered "to make laws for the peace, order, and good "government of the said Province."

9. Prior to my appointment, at the end of 1872, as Administrator of

the Government, the Civil Commissioners of the three fiscal divisions into which the territory was then and still is divided, acted independently of one another, and rendered their accounts separately to the Treasury and Audit Departments at Cape Town. No general account of revenue and expenditure was kept here, and therefore it was impossible to ascertain, with any degree of certainty, what our financial position was.

10. Mr. Giddy, now the treasurer of the Province, and then the only one of the former Commissioners at all capable of affording information (one had removed to Cape Town, and another was prostrated with fever), prepared a statement, according to which it appeared that at the close of the year 1872 there was a surplus of about 16,000*l.*, consisting of cash on hand here, and money remitted by him in 1872, and available at the Cape Treasury. This, however, turned out to be quite illusory, as there were outstanding claims against the Government in excess of that amount. I may therefore say that the new form of Government, which necessarily involved a considerable increase of expenditure, was inaugurated with a revenue too small even for the previous form of Government; for not only was there practically no balance in hand when I assumed office, but the effects of some of the Commissioners' measures, such as the formation of an armed constabulary, and a better system of conveying the mails, which together cost 15,000*l.* a year, had not been felt in 1872. I had, moreover, to provide public offices and to increase the prison accommodation, at great expense; for though only temporary buildings could be put up, both materials and labour were enormously dear. Buildings were then, and still are, constructed by covering wooden frames with sheets of corrugated iron. The timber and iron are imported, and carried up from the coast. As to labour, artisans can still command from 20*s.* to 30*s.* a day.

11. I have considered it proper to make these preliminary remarks, as without them it might be difficult to comprehend our true state; but although I say that the expenditure had exceeded the revenue prior to the issue of the letters patent before mentioned, and that in consequence of their issue increased expenditure was entailed, I would not be understood as intending to assert that the Province is not capable of providing for that increased expenditure if allowed time to develop its internal resources. Owing to circumstances over which neither the Commissioners formerly administering the Government nor the Government created by the letters patent had any control, it was impossible until lately to derive any income from land, which if properly regulated should, and will ultimately, form our main source of revenue.

Crown Lands.

There is a considerable extent of valuable land available for disposal by the Crown, the alienation of which, besides contributing largely to the Public Funds, will be in many other ways beneficial, but this Government is prohibited by the Royal Instructions issued for its guidance under date of 7th February, 1873, from disposing of any such land until after surveys have been made; and the surveys require time and money to accomplish them.

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2. According to a statement framed by the Surveyor-General, the land available for disposal by the Crown is estimated to be about six millions of acres; the value of which cannot be less than a million of pounds sterling. Supposing that when the country is fully occupied half this extent is gradually sold under the existing regulations, it will produce a capital sum far in excess of any present demands or prospective requirements for public works, and will still yield a considerable sum in the shape of perpetual quit-rent, whilst the other half occupied on leasehold tenure may be expected to give a yearly rental of at least 14,000*l.*

3. Besides this extent of available land, large reserves have been made to satisfy the claims of the original Griqua and other native inhabitants; as also such claims as may be proved in respect of grants made or promised by the Griqua Government, or in respect of the sales made by one Theodor Doms, as the alleged agent of Batlapin Chiefs, or in respect of other grants or sales made or alleged to have been made by any chiefs or persons whomsoever. It also leaves untouched the lands claimed by the grantees in South Albania, and by the Dutch farmers before mentioned; and when all these claims shall have been fairly disposed of, it is believed that there will be much vacant Crown land left in the districts at present reserved for the purpose of satisfying them.

4. A considerable amount of revenue will accrue to the Government by way of quit-rent for these lands, but until proper surveys have been made this Government does not receive those rents, lest by so doing it should be held to have recognized, before full investigation into and settlement of the various claims, the validity of any of them, more particularly in regard to the extent claimed.

About 6,000 acres.

5. There are probably at least 400 farms of 3,000 Morgen each granted or to be granted, in South Albania, Kimberley, and the upper part of the District of Barkly, between the Hart and Vaal Rivers; which, at a rental of 10*l.* per farm, the probable average amount leviable, will yield 4,000*l.* per annum, exclusive of transfer duties and other sources of revenue ordinarily accruing to Government from land in the South African Colonies. The land to be subdivided into farms for the Griqua people is mostly situated in the division of Hay, and is not included in the foregoing calculations. I do not expect to derive much revenue from it so long as it remains in the possession of the Griqua people.

6. In five years' time, I think that, setting aside the sum to be received for purchases of land, the yearly revenue from land may be safely reckoned at—

	£
Land rent	14,000
Quit-rent	9,000
Transfer dues	2,000
	£25,000

The lands of the Province afford excellent pasturage for all kinds of stock, and in particular for sheep, horned cattle, horses, and ostriches; and where water is available for irrigation, the cultivation of wheat

and other cereals, and of almost all kinds of farm and garden produce can be profitably undertaken. The land is fertile, and yields abundant crops.

7. The Vaal River, a stream about as large as the Thames at Maidenhead, well stocked with fish, and having its banks clothed with beautiful trees, runs through the centre of the Province from north to south for a distance of 150 miles, and diamonds are found all along its course; while after its junction with the Orange, the united streams form the boundary of the Province for a distance of 140 miles through what may now be called Griqualand Proper, where the Griquas are being allotted their farms and locations. Its waters are available for irrigating an immense extent of country. A water-course of six feet wide by ten feet deep can, at small expense, be constructed, commencing near our northern boundary, and carried for a distance of about 40 miles through the country, between the Hart and Vaal Rivers. This work, it is believed, might be undertaken by means of convict labour, and be completed within a moderate period of time. Levels have been taken, and the work properly marked off. Another canal, it is believed, might bring its waters from Hebron to this place.

8. A very important question has arisen with regard to lands held under Free State titles, viz. whether such titles give their possessors only the extents named in the documents, or whether the owners of farms under Free State titles can claim as of right all ground which they may have included within their "beacons" or land marks (and "occupied" for a certain period), without objection being raised thereto. As an example, I may mention the farms "Bultfontein" and "Voornitzigt," on which, according to the claims set up by the proprietors, are three out of the four diamond mines. They were both originally one farm, Bultfontein, which was granted in 1848, the extent being 6,000 acres. The extent now claimed for the two is not less than 32,000, and the question as to what the owners can legally claim includes the very important question whether these mines are on private property or on Crown land.

Mines.

The great industry of diamond seeking has during the last two years continued very remunerative, though the reduced price of diamonds in the English and European markets, and the increased cost of working at the Dry Diggings, as the mines grow deeper, have been disheartening to the poorer diggers and to those who expected a rapid fortune.

2. The history of these Diamond Fields may here be briefly repeated. The first diamond was found by accident, in 1867, and passed through many hands before its value was suspected. Even when it was admitted to be a diamond, doubts were thrown on its origin, and the existence of rough diamonds in South Africa was so generally discredited that nothing like an organized or systematic examination of the country was made for a long time.

3. A few diamonds, however, continued to be found; and in the year 1870 an exploring party, chiefly composed of officers of Her Majesty's 20th Regiment, then stationed at Natal, and one of Cape

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Colonists from King William's Town, proceeded to dig and wash the alluvial drift along the banks of the Vaal River. They soon found diamonds, and their success brought numerous other parties from all parts of the neighbouring Colonies and Republics. Operations were at this time confined to the river banks, which for many miles were covered with mining camps.

4. Mr. Campbell, on arriving in the country as special magistrate, fixed his quarters at Klip Drift, where the largest camp was, and as soon as the country was annexed, a township was laid out, building lots were sold, and substantial stone houses and stores were soon erected.

5. In 1871, however, the discovery had been made that diamonds existed not only in the drift of the old river-bed near the present course of the Vaal, but in the loose red surface-sand covering the flat grassy country between that river and the Modder, a smaller stream which ultimately joins the Vaal. A vigorous, if not systematic, search soon resulted in the opening of the four mines, now being worked at and close to Kimberley, and the river banks were soon deserted for the more profitable Dry Diggings, where diamonds were found in unexampled profusion.

6. This was the condition of things when I arrived here in January, 1873, and no material change has taken place in the last two years. Kimberley Mine, which has been most systematically worked, is in some parts 150 feet deep, but its yield is as large as ever, and the deepest claims are the most valuable. The number of claims in this mine diminishes slowly, owing to the angle of the "reef" which surrounds it, and slopes gradually inwards like a funnel. There are now 410 claims divided amongst about 1,200 claimholders, and the claims are valued for rating purposes at 474,000*l*., the selling price being about 50 per cent. more than that. No valuation of the claims has been made at the other mines. The total number of claimholders on December 31, 1874, was:—

Kimberley Mine - - - -	1,183
Du Toit's Pan Mine - - -	401
De Beer's Mine - - - -	234
Bultfontein Mine - - - -	175
River Diggings - - - -	151
Total - - -	2,144

7. The method of diamond seeking at the Dry Diggings was of the rudest description. The soil, after being raised, was pulverized and sifted, the large lumps and finer particles being alike rejected, and the sifted stuff thrown on a table and "sorted" by being rapidly run over with metal hand scrapers, the operators picking out such diamonds as they chanced to see, and sweeping the remainder of the stuff on to the ground at their feet. In this way huge mounds of débris have arisen all round the mines, and at the private sorting places of such diggers as preferred to cart their soil to thier own homes. There were two reasons for this careless mode of working. First there was no water available for washing the soil; and secondly, rude

as it was, it produced abundance of diamonds. It was, however, open to this objection, that it facilitated thefts by the sorters, and the traffic in stolen diamonds has, from its lucrative nature, been very freely indulged in, and found, in fact, to be irrepressible. It has had the most demoralizing influence on the native servants, who were thus induced to steal from their masters; on the agents (generally colonial coloured men), who went between the original thieves and the buyers of the stolen diamonds; on the greedy and unscrupulous Europeans who embarked in the illicit traffic; and finally, on the diggers, who, as a rule, careless in the superintendence of their servants, and always ready to believe they had been robbed, were sometimes led into acts of lawless and deplorable violence, either to compel restitution or extort confession. A great change is, however, taking place in the manner of working. Water, which was at first unattainable, has now to be pumped from the mines to keep the claims clear, and is also supplied from wells, which have been sunk in every direction. The result of this abundant supply of water has been the introduction of simple machines for washing the soil—a process which not only increases the yield by revealing many diamonds which before passed unnoticed, but economizes labour, and renders theft impossible in the sorting.

8. The soil is thrown into the machine, which is kept supplied with water and rocked by native labourers, who see nothing but mud, the diamonds and other mineral substances passing by their own specific gravity into a receptacle which is only opened when the day's work is done. The mineral residium is of course very small, probably in the worst machines not more than one-fiftieth, and in the best one-hundredth part of the original bulk of the soil, and is easily sorted by the master himself without the assistance of native labourers. It is also found that the enormous heaps of débris already referred to can be washed at a large profit, and hundreds of poor persons are now engaged in this industry, which is only just becoming established. It is estimated by persons who should be able to judge that the washing machines, of which there may now be some 400 in operation, washing probably 2,000 tons of soil a day, produce diamonds to the value of 20,000*l.* a week. I am not able to express an opinion on the correctness of this calculation, but judging from the Post Office returns the quantity of diamonds being exported certainly appears to be increasing.

9. I regret that it is impossible to form even an approximate estimate of the number or value of the diamonds produced; but being so easily carried, large quantities are conveyed to the ports by individual travellers.

10. The banks, however, and some of the large buyers, send their parcels through the post, and in the last eleven months of 1874 the gross weight of the diamond parcels posted at Kimberley alone was 400 pounds and 3 ounces avoirdupois, or an average of about 36¼ pounds per month. The average for the last three months, since washing has been introduced, is 51½ pounds a month.

11. The largest diamond known to have been found here was 288 carats. The highest price given for a single rough stone during my tenure of office was 8,000*l.*, being about 100*l.* per carat. All

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purchases are made for cash. The prices now given range from 5*s.* to 25*l.* per carat for ordinary stones, according to size, quality, and colour; but much higher prices would be given for diamonds of extraordinary size and beauty.

Trade.

There are at present no industries of any importance except farming and diamond seeking; but trade is vigorous and sound, being almost entirely for cash. The following licences were issued at Kimberley in 1874: 38 wholesale dealers; 198 retail ditto; 12 wholesale wine and spirit; 115 retail ditto; 41 gunpowder dealers; 13 auctioneers; 489 diamond dealers and diamond brokers; 20 butchers; 8 bakers; 6 apothecaries; 18 hawkers; 3 billiard tables; and 179 passenger conveyances.

Townships.

The townships are Kimberley and Du Toit's Pan, at the Dry Diggings; Barkly and Douglas, on the Vaal River. The latter, near its junction with the Orange, is a seat of magistracy for the district of Hay; and there being a large extent of arable land capable of being irrigated, there will probably be a demand for ground there as the farms in the district become occupied.

2. The towns of Kimberley and Du Toit's Pan, owing to causes to be referred to hereafter, are almost entirely composed of temporary buildings of iron, wood, and canvas. Kimberley is, however, as regards size, population, and business, superior to most towns of the Cape Colony. It has numerous churches and chapels, three banks, and three newspapers. Its market, owing to the high prices given for all articles of consumption, is the best in South Africa.

3. The temporary character of the towns is not due to any want of faith in the mines, but to the absence of title to ground on which to erect permanent buildings. Not only is the ownership of the land on which are situated the mines and townships in dispute, between the owner of certain farms and the local Government, as before stated, but the question whether it is Griqua territory at all is disputed by the Government of the Orange Free State, which, by steadily persisting in its claim, and at the same time evading a settlement of the question by arbitration, achieves its object of keeping the large population of the Diamond Fields unsettled, and preventing the establishment of permanent institutions.

4. The present year will, no doubt, see the question between this Government and the owners of farms settled, either by final legal decisions or by compromise; and I venture here to urge the importance of having the questions at issue between this Government and that of the Orange Free State closed in some manner as soon as possible. The present state of things, by which the question of the boundary line remains in abeyance, is one which is very detrimental to the interests of Her Majesty's Government in this Province, whilst it gives the Government of the Orange Free State an undue advantage. It enables that Government not only to continue to assert, as indisputable, pretensions which I believe will not bear a moment's investigation, but to keep always before the disaffected here the prospect of possible change, and the hope that, if sufficient pressure

be used, the British Government may still withdraw. It also prevents this Government from issuing titles to the farms in the disputed portion of the province, thus keeping the large mining population from becoming settled, by being able to acquire sites for permanent homes, and depriving this Government of the quit-rents and transfer dues which should aid its revenue.

Labour.

The principal part of the labour used in diamond seeking is supplied by tribes living to the northward of this Province. There are employed many coloured persons of mixed races from the Cape Colony; Zulus from Natal, Basutos, Batlapins, Barolongs, Griquas, Korrannas, and others; but the bulk of the labourers come from farther north; and as the returning parties spread the intelligence that the English people here will employ them and pay them such sums as will enable them to procure things the possession of which has hitherto been beyond their means, it is only natural that these people should come to us from continually increasing distances.

2. The first of these tribes to arrive, and that which has hitherto sent the largest numbers, is that of Mabanoas, who come from the country between 20 and 24 S. lat. South of the Limpopo River they are nominally within the boundaries of the South African Republic, though they have not yet submitted to its rule. In the twenty months between May 1, 1873, and December 31, 1874, more than 13,000 of these people arrived here and entered into contracts of service.

3. Next in number are the Sosbonganas, an offshoot of the Zulu race, from near the coast north of Delagoa Bay. In the same period of twenty months they have furnished 2,800.

4. In the latter part of 1874, members of a new tribe, the Makalakas, living north of the Limpopo, between 20 and 22 S. lat., began to arrive, and nearly 800 came before the end of the year; at which time arrived also the first party of the Maschonas, who live north of the Matabele, their country extending from 19 S. lat., to the banks of the Zambesi.

5. It will thus be seen that native labour is drawn to this centre of industry and trade from a tract of country extending over a distance of 600 miles to the northward; and if I were at liberty to make arrangements for the assistance and protection of these people on their journey here and back, I may say, with confidence, that this Province would be the means not only of ameliorating the condition of many thousands of natives, and supplying the Cape Colony with the labour the want of which is so much felt there, but also of opening up a vast and always increasing trade, and of enabling the pioneers of Christianity and civilization to approach the interior from a sound and secure basis of operations.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) R. SOUTHEY,
Lieut.-Governor.

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No. 15.

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No. 15.

Governor SIR HERCULES ROBINSON, G.C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Sydney,
November 5, 1874.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copies of the speech which I addressed on the 3rd instant to both Houses of the Legislature of New South Wales, on opening the Session; and also of the addresses in answer to the speech, with my rejoinders.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 10.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,
AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

1. It is matter for regret that it is necessary to call you together so soon after the labours of the late protracted Session, and I participate in the hope, which I am sure you must entertain, that the business of Parliament in future years may be confined to such limits as will not require you to give attendance to your public duties for the greater part of the twelve months,—an exaction of your time of which you too frequently have had occasion to complain. Every exertion will be made by the Government to consult your wishes by bringing the present Session to an early close.

2. The speedy transaction of business is rendered the more desirable by the approaching termination of Parliament itself as the result of special legislation. My advisers, having due regard to the Act of last Session originated in the Legislative Assembly to abridge the term of its own existence, will abstain from laying before you any measures of a comprehensive character except such as have already been submitted for your consideration, in order that the sense of the constituencies may be taken at the earliest convenient date on the several large questions now waiting to be determined. Among the principal of these may be included a thorough reform of the abuses of the present land system, improvements in the law for establishing municipalities, the construction of cheap railways, and such an extension of the provisions of the Public Schools Act as will bring the benefits of education within the reach of every family. In the present state of political affairs it is obvious that measures so momentously affecting the public welfare should be submitted to the judgment of the electors.

3. The Bill of last Session for extending and improving the representation of the people in the Legislative Assembly will be again

introduced, and I confidently rely upon your attachment to the principles of the constitution to pass it into law. The important changes for which it provides will render substantial justice to districts for years past inadequately represented, and will enable the intelligence of the electoral bodies generally to be much more effectively expressed in the electoral results.

4. The Bill to reconstruct the Legislative Council on a basis of popular election will also be reintroduced without delay.

5. Other measures of last Session which were not then proceeded with, such as the Bills for consolidating and amending the Criminal Law, for securing an adequate supply of water to the metropolis and other parts of the Colony, for making better provision for the care and treatment of the insane, and for other purposes of public utility, will be again submitted; and Bills will be introduced to improve the management of the Australian Museum and the Sydney Infirmary.

GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

6. The exposition of the financial condition of the Colony will be made, and the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year 1875 will be laid before you almost immediately.

7. The returns of revenue for the current year, I am happy to say, show a satisfactory surplus; and you will be invited to consider the expediency of setting apart annually fixed amounts to be applied in the reduction of the public debt and in the construction of works of permanent improvement.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,
AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

8. During the recess an important acquisition to British territory has been made in intimate connection with Australian interests. For some time past the people of this Colony have manifested a deep concern in the settlement of the Fiji Islands; and this Government, acting in accord with the general feeling, has made repeated representations to the Secretary of State in favour of their colonization by Great Britain. After much inquiry and consideration, and in response to appeals from Fiji herself and from other quarters, it was decided by the Imperial Government to accept the responsibility of adding the Islands to the possessions of the Crown, if the Native Chiefs were prepared to unreservedly acquiesce in the transfer of authority. The task was entrusted to me to conduct the final negotiations, and I have the satisfaction to inform you that my labours have resulted in the unconditional cession of those valuable and beautiful islands to Her Majesty the Queen. The new colony, planted in the van of Polynesia, cannot in its progress fail to exercise a civilizing influence over the whole of the islands of the Pacific; and the advantages to the commerce of New South Wales, in common with the other Australian colonies, will be manifold and may be expected to steadily increase. Papers explanatory of the subject, so far as the authorities of this Colony have been concerned, will be laid before you.

9. The mining department called into existence by the Act of last Session is being carefully organized. Arrangements have been made to

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ensure the early survey of lands for mining purposes and the undelayed issue of leases; and in the course of a short time the officers of the department throughout the Colony will be able to deal with all cases as they arise. Some defects in the law will, however, require legislative remedy.

10. The contractors for the Pacific Mail Service have failed to carry out their temporary contract, and the necessary instructions have been given to enforce payment of the penalty of 25,000*l.* secured by bond for non-performance. In the meantime measures have been adopted to continue the monthly postal communication between Sydney and San Francisco without interruption. It is satisfactory that the Government of New Zealand is prepared to bear half the expenditure of the interim contract now entered into, and has cordially agreed to co-operate with the Government of this Colony in firmly establishing the most efficient service that can be obtained.

11. I rejoice that, in now leaving you to the performance of your Parliamentary duties, I can congratulate you on the continued prosperity of the Colony; and I earnestly hope that under the guidance of the Almighty, your labours may largely tend to increase the blessings of freedom and good government for all classes of the people.

Enclosure 2 in No. 10.

To HIS EXCELLENCY SIR HERCULES GEORGE ROBERT ROBINSON, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled, offer to your Excellency the expression of our loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and of our thanks for your Excellency's speech.

2. We are glad to learn that measures for improving the state of the law respecting the public lands, the extension of municipalities, the construction of railways and the provision for public education are engaging the attention of the Government with the view to future legislation.

3. We shall be prepared to give our earnest and careful consideration to the Bill for improving the representation of the people in the Legislative Assembly.

4. The Bill for re-constructing this House, and the other measures to which our attention has been invited, shall be fully considered.

5. We are much gratified to be informed that the public revenue continues to show a surplus.

6. The cession of the Fijian Archipelago to the British Crown is an event fraught with important consequences to the English communities in Australasia; and we congratulate your Excellency on your success in the important mission for which you were selected by Her Majesty's Government.

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7. We shall give our best attention to any measure for improving the mining laws of the Colony.

8. We are glad to be informed that arrangements have been made to carry on the Trans-Pacific Mail Service temporarily, until a permanent and efficient service by that route can be established.

9. We join in your Excellency's congratulations on the prosperity of the Colony, and we earnestly hope that our labours may tend to promote the general welfare and happiness of the people.

Government House, Sydney,
November 4, 1874.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE
GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

Be pleased to accept my acknowledgments for the loyal address which you have just presented to me. I thank yon also for the congratulations which you are so kind as to offer upon the result of the mission to Fiji, with which I was entrusted by Her Majesty's Government.

It is very gratifying to me to feel that I can confidently rely upon your cordial co-operation in all measures calculated to advance the true interests of the Country and the general welfare and happiness of the people.

To HIS EXCELLENCY SIR HERCULES GEORGE ROBERT ROBINSON, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled, offer to your Excellency the expression of our loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty, and of our thanks for your Excellency's speech.

2. We are glad to learn that measures for improving the state of the law respecting the public lands, the extenston of municipalities, the construction of railways, and the provision for public education. are engaging the attention of the Government.

3. We shall be prepared to give our earnest and careful consideration to the Bill for improving the representation of the people in this house.

4. The other Bills to which our attention is invited shall be fully considered at our hands.

5. We are much gratified to be informed that the public revenue continues to show a surplus, and we can promise our cordial assistance to mature any proposals that may be submitted to us for reducing the public debt and carrying out permanent improvements in the country.

6. The cession of the Fijian Archipelago to the British Crown is an event fraught with important consequences to the English communities in Australasia; and we congratulate your Excellency on

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your success in the difficult mission for which you were selected by Her Majesty's Government.

7. We shall give our best attention to any proposals for improving the mining interests of the Colony whenever our attention is invited to the subject.

8. The information which will no doubt be laid before us respecting the Pacific Mail Service will enable us to give that just consideration to the matter to which its importance entitles it.

9. We join in your Excellency's congratulations on the prosperity of the Colony, and we earnestly hope that we may be permitted by our labours to promote the general happiness.

Government House, Sydney,
November 4, 1874.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

I thank you for the loyal tenor of the address which you have just presented to me, and for the congratulations you are so good as to express upon the result of the mission to Fiji with which Her Majesty's Government did me the honour to entrust me.

It is very agreeable to me to know that I can rely with confidence upon your advice and assistance in all measures calculated to develop the growing prosperity of the country, and to promote the general happiness of the people.

NEW ZEALAND.

NEW ZEALAND.

No. 16.

No. 16.

STATISTICS OF NEW ZEALAND, 1873.

To the Hon. DANIEL POLLEN, Colonial Secretary.

Registrar-General's Office, Wellington,
October 21, 1874.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to you the statistics for the year 1873. The results obtained during the recent census will be kept almost entirely separate from the annual statistics, but will be prepared in such a form that they can, when it is found desirable, be bound up in the same volume.

I have taken advantage of the receipt of fresh type by the Government printer, to remodel the form of the tables and the volume as a whole. I had anticipated being able to submit the volume to you during the recent Session of the General Assembly, but the unusually short duration of the Session, and the consequent press upon the Government printing office, caused the printing of the tables for the

volume to be postponed till after the expiry of the Session. The delay so caused is about equal to the delay in the publication beyond the time when I had expected it would have been completed.

PART I.—BLUE BOOK.

This part comprises an entirely new set of tables, supplying information that was often desired but not hitherto compiled. It includes a list of the Governors from the foundation of the Colony, a list of the Parliaments and of the Ministers that have held office since the establishment of the system of responsible government in New Zealand, lists of the Members of the Legislative Council and House to Representatives in 1873, and also a list of Foreign Consuls in New Zealand.

PART II.—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population on the 31st of December, 1873, was 295,946, distributed among the various provinces as shown in page 4 of the part. The births registered during the year 1873 were 11,222, and the deaths 3,645, giving the natural increase of population, as represented by the excess of births over deaths as 7,577, or 20·75 per diem. The English Registrar-General's Report for the year 1870 gives a total increase, by excess of births over deaths, of 277,458, equal to a daily increase, in a mean population of 22,457,366, of 760, equivalent to a daily percentage of increase of ·00338; whereas the daily percentage of increase in New Zealand for the year 1873, on a mean population of 287,753, was ·00721. The relative proportion of the increase of population by excess of births over deaths may thus be given:

In England and Wales - - - -	100·00
In New Zealand - - - - -	213·31

To arrive at the causes of this difference, it would be requisite to ascertain the proportion in the two countries respectively of the number of persons of 55 years of age and over to the total population, the proportion that the deaths of such persons bear to the total deaths, the proportion of married females between 15 and 45 to the total number of females between those ages, and the number of children born to the number of married females. This investigation cannot be made until after the completion of the census compilation now in progress There is, however, one noticeable feature bearing on the subject. viz. the relative rates of infant mortality. In England, in 1870 the births were 792,787, and the deaths of children under one year of age were 126,638; or, in other words, 15·97 per cent. of the children born died before reaching the age of one year: whereas in New Zealand, in 1873, 1,213 infants under one year of age died to 11,222 births, so that only 10·81 per cent. of the children born died before attaining the age of one year. In Victoria, in 1873, the percentage of such deaths to the total births was 11·3, and taking a mean of 10 years, 1864 to 1873, it was 12·4.

The increase during the year, by excess of immigration over

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emigration, was 8,811, against 4,973 in 1872. The total increase of population was thus 16,386. The table gives the increase of the population in each of the four quarters of the year.

Immigration.—The total immigration to New Zealand in 1873 amounted to 13,572 persons, of whom 7,871 were males and 5,701 were females Of the males, 6,362 were adults, 1,509 children ; and of the females 4,272 were adults, 1,429 children. Of these persons, the number whose passages were wholly or in part paid by the Government was 8,754. The ports of arrival and departure of the immigrants and emigrants, and the countries whence they came and to which they went, also the nationalities of the Government immigrants, are shown in this part.

Of the immigrants from the United Kingdom, viz. 8,922, only 168 were unassisted, while of those arriving from the Australian Colonies and other ports there were no assisted immigrants.

Aliens Naturalized.—The total number of aliens naturalized in 1873 was 34, of whom 14 were natives of German States. Four Frenchmen were naturalized, and 3 Chinese. Two subjects of the United States took the oath of allegiance to Her Britannic Majesty.

Armed Constabulary and Volunteers.—The total strength of the armed constabulary on the 31st December, 1873, was 709, distributed over 57 posts in the North Island. There were 40 commissioned officers, 89 non-commissioned officers, and 580 rank and file. The various branches of the Volunteer force gave a total strength of 6,911 officers and men belonging to 175 corps. The particulars of the strength of each branch in each province will be found on reference to the table on this subject.

Fire Brigades.—The returns show that there were, in 1873, 15 fire brigades in the Colony, having 48 officers and 375 men.

Borough Rates, &c.—The returns for the boroughs show that the total estimated value of rateable property is 5,369,213*l.* and that the estimated gross annual value of such property is 485,280*l.* The revenue of these boroughs (exclusive of the borough of Auckland, the returns not in that case giving all the information desired) amounted in 1873 to the sum of 61,848*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*

VITAL STATISTICS.

The proportion of births, deaths, and marriages to every 1,000 persons living in 1873, and a similar proportion for the last ten years, are shown in the first two tables of this part. The births and deaths for the years 1864–72 include still-births registered both as deaths and births. These are not included in the figures for the year 1873. The greatest number of births occurred in the third and fourth quarters of the year. These, in season, correspond to the first and second quarters in England, where the births are usually most numerous in the second quarter of the year, and least numerous in the third quarter.

Illegitimate Births.—Out of the total number of children registered in New Zealand in 1873, 159, or 1·416 per cent., were registered as illegitimate. In England in 1870 the rate was 5·6 ; and in the six

years 1863–68 the rate was 6·2 per cent. The rate of illegitimacy was highest in the Marlborough Province, viz. 4·824 per cent., and lowest in the Hawke's Bay Province, viz. ·91 per cent. The rates in the various provinces were as follows:—Auckland, ·96; Hawke's Bay, ·91; Taranaki, 1·554; Wellington, 1·036; Nelson, 1·342; Marlborough, 4·824; Canterbury, 1·734; Otago, 1·429; Westland, 1·890 per cent.

Marriages.—The number of marriages in 1873 was 2,276, being an increase on 1872 of 403. The number was more than proportionate to the increase of population, for the marriages in 1872 were in the proportion of 6·85 to every 1,000 of the population; but in 1873 they were at the rate of 7·90. Although the marriage rate was higher than for some years past, it does not reach the rates of the first six years of the last decennial period. If in the different circumstances of a colony the marriage rate can, as in European countries, be considered as a test of the measure of prosperity of the people, it would appear that the highest state of prosperity was in 1864, and that there was a gradual decrease of prosperity till the year 1872, and that in 1873 the condition of the people was improving at a more rapid rate than the previous decrease.

Of the 2,276 marriages in 1873, 753 were solemnized by the Scotch Church and Presbyterian denominations, 625 by the United Church of England and Ireland, 300 by the Roman Catholic Church, 211 by the Wesleyan Methodist Society, 211 by the Registrars, and 177 by other religious bodies. Of the 2,276 marriages 1,924 were between bachelors and spinsters (including the marriage of a divorced male with a spinster), 154 between bachelors and widows, 134 between widowers and spinsters, and 64 between widowers and widows.

Signature of Marriage Registers.—Of the 2,276 men who were married, 67, or 2·94 per cent., and of the 2,276 women, 179, or 7·86 per cent., signed the register by marks. In England, in 1870 19·8 per cent. of the men and 27·3 per cent. of the women who were married signed the register by marks. The rudiments of education seem thus to be more generally diffused among the people of the Colony than among the people in England. The proportion of married women entirely uneducated to uneducated married men appears, however, to be greater in the Colony than in England, although the absolute proportion of uneducated amongst the entire number of women married is so much less.

Ages of Persons Married.—In 1873, of the 2,276 marriages, 127 wives and 132 husbands were of unspecified ages further than that (although not exhibited in the table) they were minors or else of full age, and of these numbers, 23 of the wives and 2 of the husbands were minors, or under 21 years of age. The number of men that married under 21 years of age was thus (including the 21 minors whose ages are given in the table) 23, of whom 15 married women also under 21. Of the 2,276 women married, 636 were under the age of 21, 854 between 21 and 25, and 394 between 25 and 30. The youngest wife was a girl of between 14 and 15, married to a man between 35 and 40. A greater number of men married between the ages of 25 and 30, and a greater number of women

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married between the ages of 21 and 25, than during any other quinquennial age. Two men of 65 to 70 were married: in one case the wife was between 30 and 35, and in the other case the wife was between 50 and 55.

Deaths.—The proportion of deaths of children under five years to the total deaths in the provinces was as follows:—

	1872.	1873.
Canterbury	58·63	50·29
Hawke's Bay	45·76	46·15
Auckland	45·27	52·74
Otago	42·71	48·56
Wellington	41·07	45·30
Marlborough	39·70	44·61
Nelson	39·07	35·84
Westland	37·37	46·24
Taranaki	13·63	32·00
Average	45·85	48·42

Of the total deaths in 1873, 48·42 per cent. were of children under five years of age. This rate at first appears exceedingly high when compared with the English rate, which was, in 1871, 41·1 per cent. of the deaths; but in making the comparison it must not be overlooked that there is in England a very much larger proportion of the population over 55 years of age than there is in New Zealand, and that the deaths of persons above that age were in England in 1870, 27·3 per cent. of the total deaths; whereas in New Zealand such deaths only comprised 11·41 per cent. of the whole number. If to the total deaths in New Zealand had been added a number of deaths of persons over 55 years, viz. 769, increasing the total number of deaths to 4,441, so that the number of deaths of persons over 55 should be in the same proportion to the total deaths as obtained in England, viz. 27·3, then the actual deaths of children under five years of age would only have been at the rate of 39·74 per cent. of such increased number of deaths, or 1·36 per cent. less than the English rate in 1871.

	Actual.		Assumed.	
Under 5	1,765	48·42	1,765	39·74
Five and under 55	1,439	39·48	1,439	32·50
Over 55	416	11·41	1,212	27·29
Unspecified	25	0·69	25	0·57
	3,645	100·00	4,441	100·00

Of the total 3,645 deaths, 1,213 were of children under one year of age; of these 376 died under the age of one month: of these 376, 104 died from atrophy and debility and 73 from premature births; the remainder from various diseases more or less under control by preventive or medical treatment.

The following were the most fatal causes of death to children under

one year and the proportion such deaths bore to the total number (1,213) of deaths under that age :—

Whooping cough - - -	221	18·22 per cent.
Atrophy and debility - - -	172	14·18 „
Diarrhœa - - - -	139	11·46 „
Convulsions - - - -	111	9·15 „
Bronchitis - - - -	81	6·68 „
Premature birth - - - -	75	6·19 „

If these figures be compared with those for 1872, great differences will be perceptible. The infantile deaths under one year of age from whooping cough would appear to have increased from 31 to 221, and the deaths from diarrhœa to have fallen from 210 to 139. The explanation, however, is this: In 1872, the causes of death were for the first time classified in New Zealand, and the immediate cause of death was given, although that death was often a secondary symptom of another disease,—thus, fatal cases from whooping cough causing diarrhœa or convulsions were classified under one of the latter heads. This year the primary cause of death, so far as ascertainable by the returns, has been taken as the disease under which the death was to be classified. This system will tend to make the real causes of death apparent; it is also more uniform with the system adopted in England and Victoria.

There were in 1873, 128 deaths from diphtheria, of which 100 occurred in Canterbury and 17 in Auckland.

The deaths from tubercular diseases were as follows :—

Auckland - - -	79	or	1·15 per 1,000 of the population.
Otago - - -	71		0·88 „ „
Canterbury - - -	71		1·32 „ „
Wellington - -	28		0·98 „ „
Nelson - - - -	22		0·92 „ „
Hawke's Bay - -	9		1·19 „ „
Taranaki - - -	5		1·03 „ „
Westland - - -	14		0·91 „ „
Marlborough - - -	3		0·53 „ „

The deaths in New Zealand in 1873 from phthisis were 206, or 5·65 per cent. of the total deaths. In England in 1870 they were 54,231, or 10 52 per cent. These figures do not fairly represent the proportion between the deaths from phthisis in England and New Zealand, because, as previously shown, there is not in New Zealand that proportion of persons above 55 whose deaths largely increase the death rate in England, and who are at the same time that portion of the population among whom the fewest deaths from phthisis occur. In England in 1870 the deaths from phthisis were 2·388 per 1,000 of the population; in New Zealand they were 0·715 per 1,000.

In England, in 1870, to each 1,000 children born, 1·29 died under one year of age from phthisis; in New Zealand, in 1873, only 0·445 per 1,000 died under one year from that cause: so that it would appear that the number of children born with lungs already diseased, or predisposed to disease, was nearly two-thirds less in proportion to the

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total births than in England. Again, bearing in mind the largely apparent increase in New Zealand in the total death rate of all persons under 55 years, from the absence of the same proportion of living population over 55 years as obtains in England, and for which allowance must be made, it appears that in England, in 1870, ·198 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes were, of children under one year of age, from phthisis, and ·486 per cent. were of children under five years of age from the same disease: but in New Zealand, in 1873, ·137 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes were of children under one year from phthisis, and ·192 per cent. of the total deaths were of children under five years from phthisis. Again, in England, in 1870, 3·51 per cent. of the total deaths were of persons under 25 years of age from phthisis, and 7·01 were of persons of 25 years of age and over from phthisis. In New Zealand, in 1873, 1·31 per cent. of the total deaths were of persons under 25 years, and 4·33 were of persons of 25 years of age and over, from phthisis.

If the proportion of the actual deaths from phthisis be taken, it will be found that of the persons who died from that disease in England in 1870, 33·43 were of persons under 25 and 66·57 of persons of 25 years of age and over; but in New Zealand, in 1873, of the actual deaths from phthisis, 23·30 were of persons under 25, and 76·70 of persons of 25 years of age and over.

The above figures point unmistakably in the direction of a comparatively large number of adult persons arriving in New Zealand while suffering under that disease, and who possibly come to the Colony with a view to deriving benefit from the sea voyage and the New Zealand climate, but many of whom have here terminated their existence. As no history of the cases has been registered, it is impossible to state to what extent the number of deaths from phthisis have been those of diseased persons arriving here; but inasmuch as the bare figures, without any explanation, might lead to false conclusions, I have thought it desirable to enlarge a little on this subject.

The deaths from diseases of the respiratory system occurred in the provinces in the following ratio to their respective populations:—

	1872.	1873.	
Canterbury - -	1·49	1·85	per 1,000 of the population.
Auckland - -	0·83	1·59	„ „
Westland - - -	1·17	1·44	„ „
Otago - - -	1·18	1·39	„ „
Taranaki - - -	0·42	1·24	„ „
Wellington - -	1·53	1·16	„ „
Hawke's Bay - -	0·44	0·92	„ „
Nelson - - -	1·11	0·75	„ „
Marlborough - -	1·09	0·71	„ „

The number of accidental or violent deaths was 320, viz. 264 males and 56 females; of these 114 were caused by drowning, viz. 99 males and 15 females, or 35·6 of the whole. Two of the males drowned committed suicide. The total number of suicides was 20, of which 2 were females.

The following table exhibits the classification of diseases which have terminated fatally, and gives the percentage which each class and order of disease bears to the total mortality of the year:—

Class I.—Zymotic Diseases.

Order 1.	Miasmatic diseases	26·23
„ 2.	Enthetic „	0·25
„ 3.	Dietic „	1·32
„ 4.	Parasitic „	0·44
		28·24

Class II.—Constitutional.

Order 1.	Diathetic diseases	3·21
„ 2.	Tubercular „	8·28
		11·49

Class III.—Local.

Order 1.	Nervous diseases	12·04
„ 2.	Circulation, diseases of	4·55
„ 3.	Respiratory organs, diseases of	11·25
„ 4.	Digestive organs „	5·62
„ 5.	Urinary organs „	1·40
„ 6.	Generative organs „	0·22
„ 7.	Locomotive organs „	0·14
„ 8.	Integumentary system „	0·27
		35·49

Class IV.—Developmental.

Order 1.	Children, diseases of	4·69
„ 2.	Adults „	1·40
„ 3.	Old people „	2·22
, 4.	Nutrition „	5·62
		13·93

Class V.—Violence.

Order 1.	Accidents or negligence	7·85
„ 3.	Homicide	0·25
„ 4.	Suicide	0·55
„ 5.	Execution	0·03
	Violent deaths, not classed	0·11
		8·79
	Causes of death not specified	2·06

Diseases and Deaths in Hospitals, Lunatic Asylums, &c.—Tables of vital statistics for hospitals, lunatic asylums, gaols, benevolent asylums, and industrial schools are presented this year for the first time. In the various hospitals, excepting the hospital at Invercargill,

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there were, during the year 1873, 3,377 persons under treatment, of whom 306 died.

The diseases that yielded the greatest number of patients were:—

	Cases.	Deaths.
Typhoid fever	212	25
Rheumatism	257	3
Phthisis	190	73
Brain disease	118	11
Heart disease	109	31
Bronchitis	127	8
Phlegmon, ulcer, skin disease	226	1
Accidents	614	28

In the lunatic asylums there were 429 cases of disease treated, and 34 deaths. As might be expected, the large majority of the cases were from diseases of the nervous system,—341 cases, causing 20 deaths. The goals show a very small percentage of deaths to the cases of disease,—8 deaths to 509 cases. In the goals, diseases of the nervous system were most numerous, being 100; diseases of the digestive organs ranking next.

Three hundred and nineteen patients died in the various hospitals during 1873: this includes the deaths in the Invercargill Hospital, which are not included in the table.

On the 31st December, 1873, there were 597 inmates of lunatic asylums—401 males and 196 females: of these, 453, or 309 males and 144 females are returned as supposed incurable. The Commissioners of Lunacy in England have condemned the use of the terms "curable" and "incurable," and prefer that the terms "acute" and "chronic" be used. In their opinion it is impossible to pronounce any patient incurable. It is worthy of consideration whether the terms "curable" and "incurable" should not be changed in the asylums here, to the words "acute" and "chronic," for the very reasons that are given by the Commissioners against the maintenance of chronic or incurable cases in separate institutions. They say, "The very nature of the "cases tends to exert an unfavourable influence on the minds of all "officers and attendants. The office of physician is a peculiarly un- "grateful one, since he can have no recompense for his trouble in "the recovery of patients. Interest is thus gradually lost in all "treatment, and the institution is conducted by mere routine. The "safe and economical keeping of the patients soon becomes the ruling "idea, and under this the patients will sink mentally and physically, "and those in whom some chances of recovery still remained on "admission (and cases have been known to recover in asylums after "a residence of fifteen or twenty years) will become utterly hope- "less." The use of the term "incurable," and the belief engendered therefrom, may reasonably be presumed to cause similar results to those mentioned even when the patients are kept in the same institution with the acute cases. Of the total patients in the asylums during the year, viz. 801, 126 were discharged cured, 27 improved, and 40 died. The table gives 798 inmates as receiving relief. This number falls short by 3 of the actual patients shown in another table, the

difference being caused by the want of any return from the Taranaki Asylum.

Friendly Societies.—The table of Vital Statistics for Friendly Societies is lamentably imperfect both as to the number of societies that should have furnished a return to the Government, and as to the character of the information furnished. It is very desirable that greater stringency should be used to enforce the periodical returns required by "The Friendly Societies Act, 1867."

Meteorology.—The Meteorological Tables, instead of, as formerly, constituting a distinct series in the annual volume, have this year been placed in their more legitimate position, being incorporated with the portion of the volume relating to Vital Statistics.

PART III.—TRADE AND INTERCHANGE.

Shipping.—The total shipping inwards at the various ports of the Colony was 739 vessels, of 289,297 tons, being a decreose, as compared with 1872, of 36 in the number of vessels and 11,005 in the tonnage. The total outwards was 704 vessels of 281,847 tons being a decrease, as compared with 1872, of 39 in the number of vessels and 3,519 in the tonnage. Of the total of 739 vessels inwards, 95, of 80,032 tonnage, arrived from the United Kingdom; 536, of 176,769 tonnage, from the Australian Colonies and other British possessions; and 108, of 32,496 tonnage, from foreign countries (including the southern whale fishery). Of the total of 704 vessels outwards, 63, of 51,659 tonnage, cleared for the United Kingdom; 524 vessels, of 191,021 tonnage, cleared for the Australian Colonies and other British possessions; and 117 vessels, of 39,167 tonnage, cleared for foreign states (including the southern whale fishery).

The number of registered vessels belonging to ports in New Zealand on the 31st December, 1873, was 411, of 30,035 tonnage (viz., 348 sailing vessels, of 24,790 tonnage, and 63 steam vessels, of 5,245 tonnage), against 364 vessels, of 23,963 tonnage, on the 31st December, 1872. Of these vessels, 180 sailing vessels and 23 steam vessels belonged to the port of Auckland. Dunedin ranked next, having 47 sailing vessels and 13 steamers. Lyttelton possessed 58 sailing vessels and 7 steamers; Wellington, 29 sailing vessels and 11 steamers; Nelson, 16 sailing vessels and 7 steamers; Invercargill, 13 sailing vessels; and Napier, 5 sailing vessels and 2 steamers.

Imports.—The total value of the imports of the Colony in 1873 was 6,464,687*l.*, against 5,142,951*l.* in 1872, being an increase of 1,321,736*l.*, or 25·7 per cent.

The following figures show the increase or decrease in each of the provinces in 1873 as compared with 1872:—

Auckland	Increase	228,177*l.*,	or 18·66 per cent.
Taranaki	„	1,378*l.*,	„ 7·82 „
Wellington	„	264,902*l.*,	„ 51·28 „
Hawke's Bay	„	52,110*l.*,	„ 50·07 „
Nelson	„	25,178*l.*,	„ 7·21 „
Marlborough	„	4,673*l.*,	„ 39·40 „
Canterbury	„	412,879*l.*,	„ 61·49 „
Westland	Decrease	44,289*l.*,	„ 12·62 „
Otago	Increase	379,740*l.*,	„ 19·84 „

A comparison of the total value of imports in 1872 and 1873 according to the countries whence they were received, gives the following results:—

	1872.	1873.		
	£	£		£
United Kingdom -	2,685,160	3,781,130	Increase,	1,095,970
British Colonies - -	2,276,052	2,418,302	„	142,250
Foreign States - -	181,739	265,255	„	83,516
	£5,142,951	£6,464,687		£1,321,736

The chief increases in imports from the British Colonies were from—

	£
New South Wales - - - - -	60,768
Mauritius - - - - - -	39,172
Tasmania - - - - - - -	19,521
South Australia - - - - -	11,103
Victoria - - - - - - -	6,649
Hong Kong - - - - - -	3,379
Western Australia - - - - -	3,300
Norfolk Island - - - - - -	2,684

The chief increases in the imports from Foreign States were from—

	£
United States of America - - - -	52,616
China - - - - - - -	12,584
Islands in the Pacific - - - - -	18,799

Direct importations from the Continental States of Europe decreased from 6,464*l.* in 1872 to 924*l.* in 1873.

Exports.—The total value of the exports from New Zealand in 1873 (excluding the value of imported goods re-exported from the Colony) was 5,477,979*l.*, against a similar total in 1872 of 5,107,186*l.*, being an increase of 370,793*l.*

Gold Exported.—The total value of gold exported from New Zealand in 1873 was 1,987,425*l.* against 1,731,261*l.* in 1872, showing an increase of 256,164*l.*

The following table shows the amount of increase or decrease in each province:—

VALUE of GOLD EXPORTED in 1872 and 1873 respectively.

	1872.	1873.	Whether of Increase or Decrease.	Amount of Increase or Decrease.
	£	£		£
Produce of the Gold Fields in the Province of Auckland -	369,341	437,123	Increase.	67,782
„ „ „ Marlborough	8,228	5,050	Decrease.	3,178
„ „ „ Nelson -	326,656	403,085	Increase.	76,429
„ „ „ Westland -	396,340	408,143	„	11,803
„ „ „ Otago - -	630,696	734,024	„	103,328
Total - - - - - -	1,731,261	1,987,425	Increase.	256,164

The total quantity of gold exported from New Zealand from the 1st April, 1857, to the 31st December, 1873, was 7,223,585 oz.; the total value, 28,071,685*l.*

Wool Exported.—The total quantity of wool exported in 1873 was 41,535,185 lbs. against 41,886,997 lbs. in 1872; a decrease of 351,812 lbs. This decrease in the quantity of wool exported may appear at first surprising, if not incorrect. As, however, the shearing season commences in the last quarter of the year, it is apparent that the season's clip will be exported in two different years, and thus early or late shipments of wool in any one season may disturb the comparison between the exports of wool of one year and another. The real increase or decrease in the wool production would be better estimated by taking the exports for the year ending the 30th September. These exports were for the undermentioned year as follows:—

Year ending 30th September.	Wool Exported. lbs.
1871	35,936,651
1872	40,376,539
1873	43,233,470

So that the actual production of wool for the season 1872–73 was 2,856,931 lbs. increase on the former year.

Value of Exports to different Countries.—Of the exports to different countries those from Dunedin were greatest in value; Lyttelton ranked next in the value of its exports, Auckland was third, and Wellington fourth. The largest exports were to the United Kingdom, amounting to 3,702,416*l.* Victoria received New Zealand exports to the value of 1,349,316*l.* (including gold to the value of 1,217,062*l.* out of a total gold export of 1,987,425*l.*); and the next largest exports were to the United States of America, the value of the exports thither being 262,346*l.* The total exports amounted to the value of 5,610,371*l.*

Principal Articles Exported.—The tables showing the quantities and values of the principal articles, the produce of the Colony, exported, enable the annual exports of each of the articles therein named to be compared for a period of 10 years. The articles are not arranged alphabetically, but are grouped into natural classes.

It would thus appear that, of the articles referred to, the pastoral interests yielded exports of the greatest value, amounting to 2,845,431*l.*; that the mining interests yielded exports to the amount of 1,997,930*l.*; the dairy and preserved meat exports (a large portion of the latter of which might perhaps fairly be claimed by pastoral interests) amounted to 175.931*l.* The agriculturists supplied exports to the value of 153,394*l.*; while the natural products of the soil, either with or without labour expended upon them, yielded exports to the value of 277,313*l.*; and the whale and seal fishing interests supplied exports only to the value of 4,857*l.*

Export of Flour and Grain: Decennial Return.—The export of flour and grain has only assumed features of importance since 1866. During the years 1867–73, Canterbury exported those articles to the value of 667,847*l.*; the largest export being in 1870, 136,797*l.*, since

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which there has been a progressive reduction to 100,391*l.* in 1873. These exports from Otago during the same period of seven years amounted to 230,385*l.*; the largest exports being respectively in 1870, 46,132*l.*; 1872, 59,465*l.*; and 1873, 41,775*l.* Auckland ranked next, with exports to the value of 24,299*l.* during the seven years, of which the largest was in 1867, 9,265*l.*; since then the fluctuation in the exports has been considerable. The exports from the other provinces amounted to comparatively very little.

Timber Exported.—The table shows the export of timber from the several provinces for a period of 10 years. The value of timber of all sorts exported in 1873 was 43,697*l.*, against 27,373*l.* in 1872; and increase of 16,324*l.* Of the total amount of 43,697*l.* exported in 1873, 33,948*l.* worth was exported from Auckland, and 6,500*l.* worth from Westland.

Value of Total Trade.—The total trade of the Colony, as represented by imports and exports, amounted in 1873 to 12,075,058*l.*, or 41*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* per head of the mean population, excluding the aboriginal natives. The trade with the United Kingdom reached the amount of 7,483,546*l.*; that with Victoria amounted to 2,952,548*l.*; that with New South Wales, 630,734*l.*; that with the United States of America, 405,619*l.*; that with the Mauritius (entirely imports), 198,614*l.*; that with China, including Hong Kong, 114,618*l.*; that with the South Sea Islands, 106,574*l.*; and that with South Australia, 58,587*l.* The balance was distributed between other countries and ports.

The following figures show the total imports and exports per head of the population in the year 1873:—

Total Imports.	Mean Population in 1873, exclusive of Aboriginals.	Imports per Head of the Population.
£		£ s. d.
6,464,687	287,753	22 9 3¾

Total Exports.		Exports per Head.
£		£ s. d.
5,610,371	„	19 9 11¼

Letters Received.—The total numbers of letters received in New Zealand during the year 1873 were: From places without the Colony 527,000, against 512,225 in 1872; and from places within the Colony, 3,694,977, against 3,075,848 in 1872; making a general total of 4,221,977, against 3,588,073 in 1872; being an increase of 633,904.

Letters Despatched.—The total number of letters despatched were: To places without the Colony, 484,171, against 475,861 in 1872: and to places within the Colony, 3,209,837 against 2,894,609 in 1872; making a general total of 3,694,008, against 3,370,470; being an increase of 323,538.

Newspapers Received and Despatched.—The total numbers of newspapers received in 1873 were: From places without the Colony, 1,235,156, against 1,102,202 in 1872; from places within the Colony, 1,728,014, against 1,665,480 in 1872; making a general total of

2,963,170, against 2,767,682; being an increase of 195,488. The total numbers of newspapers despatched were: To places without the Colony, 346,227, against 334,233 in 1872; to places within the Colony, 1,959,798, against 1,309,176 in 1872; making a general total of 2,306,025, against 1,643,409 in 1872; being an increase of 662,616.

Postal Revenue.—The total amount of the postal revenue in 1873 was 94,706*l.* 16*s.*, against 94,733*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* in 1872. Both these amounts, however, include the sums chargeable on franked correspondence, if such had been paid for. The actual *cash* postal revenue for the year 1873 was 54,684*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*

Electric Telegraph.—The telegraph stations in the Colony on the 31st December, 1873, numbered 98, being 12 more than in December, 1872; the number of miles of line was 2,389, against 2,312 in 1872; the number of miles of wire was 4,609, against 4,011 in 1872; and the aggregate number of telegrams (private and public) was 637,941, against 491,205 in 1872.

Prices of Wages and Provisions.—The table on page 87 is entirely new. It gives the average rate of wages for various kinds of labour in the several provinces during the year 1873. In some cases information is not given for every province, no return for such kinds of labour having been made.

PART IV.—FINANCE—ACCUMULATION AND PRODUCTION.

Revenue.—The customs revenue in 1873 amounted to 965,800*l.*, against 813,279*l.* in 1872; being an increase of 152,521*l.*, or 18·75 per cent. The following figures show the comparative amounts realized by this branch of the revenue during the ten years 1864 to 1873 inclusive:—

	£		£	Per cent.
1864 - -	592,346,	being an increase of	296, or	0·05
1865 - -	730,008,	„ „	137,662, „	23·24
1866 - -	844,267,	„ „	114,259, „	15·65
1867 - -	843,997,	being a decrease of	270, „	0·03
1868 - -	788,829,	„ „	55,168, „	6·53
1869 - -	823,511,	being an increase of	34,682, „	4·39
1870 - -	765,930,	being a dereease of	57,581, „	6·99
1871 - -	731,883,	„ „	34,047, „	4·44
1872 - -	813,279,	being an increase of	81,396, „	11·12
1873 - -	965,800,	„ „	152,521, „	18·75

The total ordinary revenue in 1873 amounted to 1,487,393*l.* To compare this amount correctly with the ordinary revenue given in the volume of statistics for 1872, viz., 1,005,942*l.*, it is necessary to understand that the above amount given as the ordinary revenue for 1873 includes ordinary provincial revenue, amounting in 1873 to 257,782*l.*, which should of course be included in the total ordinary revenue of New Zealand. As the provincial revenue was not included in the amount given as the ordinary revenue for 1872, it is necessary to reduce the sum of 1,487,393*l.* by 257,183*l.*, for the purpose of making a comparison with the amounts given in former years. By making

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the above deduction it will be found that the increase of the ordinary revenue of the Colonial Government in 1873 was 223,669*l.*

The total territorial revenue in 1873 amounted to 1,265,788*l.* To compare this amount with the territorial revenue of 1872, it is necessary to add to the amount given for 1872 the sums received on account of the sale of confiscated lands and from the proceeds of the Brunner coal mine, which properly constitute territorial revenue, but were not included as such for the year 1872, although they are for the year 1873. These sums in 1872 together amounted to 11,916*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* If this be added to the amount given as territorial revenue for 1872 (618,772*l.*), the real territorial revenue of 1872 will be arrived at, viz. 630,688*l.* (omitting shillings). The increase upon this revenue in 1873 therefore amounts to the sum of 635,100*l.*, being an increase of 100·7 per cent.

The general total of the revenue (both ordinary and territorial) amounted, in 1873, to 2,753,181*l.*

Debt of General and Provincial Governments.—The total debts of the General and Provincial Governments, consisting of debentures and treasury bills in circulation on the 31st December, 1873, amounted to 10,913,936*l.*, the total annual charge on which was 663,209*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*, of which the sum of 549,415*l.* 5*s.* was for payment of interest, and the sum of 113,794*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* paid to the sinking fund. The total accrued sinking fund on the 31st December was 804,635*l.* 3*s.*

Of the above totals the indebtedness of the General Government amounted to 7,427,524*l.*, with a total annual charge, for interest and sinking fund, of 442,706*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*; and the indebtedness of the various Provincial Governments amounted to the sum of 3,486,412*l.*, with a total annual charge, for interest and sinking fund, of 220,503*l.* 11*s.* The total debt per head of the population on the 31st December, 1873, was 36*l.* 17*s.* 6½*d.*, apportioned thus: colonial debt per head, 25*l.* 1*s.* 11¼*d.*; provincial debt per head, 11*l.* 15*s.* 7¼*d.* The total annual charge per head for interest and sinking fund amounted to 2*l.* 4*s.* 6¼*d.*, against a total annual charge of 2*l.* 4*s.* 1½*d.* per head on the 31st December, 1872.

Crown Lands.—The total amoumt of Crown lands sold during the year amounted to 790,245 acres. The cash received amounted to 980,758*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* Scrip to the amount of 4,793*l.* 6*s.* was also received in payment.

The total number of acres disposed of without sale amounted to 485,336, including 104,660 acres as reserves for public purposes, and 373,905 acres granted to natives under the Native Lands Acts.

The total number of acres of Crown lands held for depasturing purposes amounted to 14,622,594, the rents and assessments of which amounted to 127,195*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* The number of acres leased for mineral and other purposes amounted to 6,036, yielding a rental of 724*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*

ACCUMULATION.

Banks.—The table similar to that published in previous years, and again prepared by the Secretary to the Treasury, shows the average liabilities and assets of the several banks in New Zealand

in respect of their transactions within the Colony during the year 1873, together with their capital and profits. The aggregate amounts shown for these banks are:—Total average liabilities, 5,538,030*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*; total average assets, 7,267,720*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*; total capital paid up, 31st December, 1873, 4,581,627*l.* 2*s.*; total amount of last dividends, 258,400*l.* 8*s.*; and total amount of reserved profits at the time of declaring such dividends, 1,383,730*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*

Post Office Savings Banks.—At the close of the year 1873 the number of Post Office Savings Banks in the Colony was 97, being an increase of 5 as compared with 1872, and 16 as compared with 1871. Within the year, 7,382 new accounts were opened, and the total deposits (including additions to open accounts) amounted to 580,542*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* The total amount of principal withdrawn during the year was 425,908*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* Taking into account the whole period from the commencement of the system in 1867, to the 31st December, 1873, there remained on the latter date, including principal and interest, a total balance to the credit of depositors amounting to 664,807*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*

Although the increase of deposits over withdrawals in the Post Office Savings Banks in 1873 was not of such a marked character as in 1872, still it is a considerable evidence of the accumulating wealth among those classes who chiefly use these banks as a means of saving. The increase in the excess of deposits over withdrawals in 1873 over 1872 amounted to 36,933*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* The average amount of deposits to the credit of each account was, in 1873, 38*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, against 36*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* in 1872.

Other Savings Banks.—In Savings Banks other than the Post Office Savings Banks, the deposits in 1873 by Europeans amounted to 91,350*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*; by Maoris, 107*l.*; or a total deposit of 91,457*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*, an increase on the deposits in 1872 of 34,676*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* The total amounts at credit of depositors in these banks on the 31st December, 1873, was: Europeans, 147,123*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*; Maoris, 215*l.* 6*d.*; or a total of 147,337*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* The total accumulated deposits in both classes of Savings Banks thus reached the amount of 812,144*l*, 13*s.* 1*d.*

Money Orders.—The total number of money orders issued in New Zealand in 1873 was 52,351, against 44,660 in 1872; being an increase of 7,691. The total amount of these orders was, in 1873, 219,258*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, against 191,009*l.* 2*s.* in 1872; being an increase of 28,248*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* The total number of money orders paid in New Zealand in 1873 was 37,425, against 30,946 in 1872; being an increase of 6,479. The total amount of these orders was, in 1873, 157,486*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*, against 133,558*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* in 1872; being an increase of 23,928*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*

Mortgages and Releases.—The total number of mortgages effected in 1873 was 3,799, representing the amount of 2,164,859*l.* 18*s.*, while the total releases were 1,953, representing the amount of 977,132*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*

The number of these transactions respectively in each province or district under the Land Transfer Act is shown.

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PRODUCTION.

Agricultural Statistics.—The information relating to the agricultural statistics taken in February, 1874, was only obtained in respect of holdings of cultivated land of one acre in extent or upwards, with the exception of holdings of aboriginal natives, and of gardens attached to residences. As holdings of less than one acre in extent, gardens, and uncultivated holdings are included in the census returns, the numbers of holdings there given are far in excess of the holdings enumerated in the abstracts of the agricultural statistics above mentioned.

Of the total land in cultivation in February, 1874, a percentage of 15·99 (or 264,024 acres) was under grain crops. Of these 264,024 acres under grain crop, 120,013 were in the Province of Canterbury, and 119,164 in the Province of Otago.

The proportion of permanent artificial pasture or sown grasses to the total acreage was, in February, 1874, 88·14 to every 100 acres in Auckland, 88·66 in Taranaki, 94·77 in Wellington, 90·68 in Hawke's Bay, 74·64 in Nelson, 68·76 in Marlborough, 55·35 in Canterbury, 62·08 in Westland, and 55·06 in Otago.

The total acreage under all kinds of crops, including sown grasses and of land broken up but not under crop, in February, 1874, was 1,651,712 acres, being an increase on 1873 of 234,779 acres. The total increase since 1869 amounts to 868,277 acres, or 110·8 per cent. on the then amount. The increase, however, appears to have been chiefly in the quantity of land laid down to artificial pasture, for the total land under grain crops has only increased in the same period from 165,000 acres to 264,024, being an increase of 99,024 acres; the land broken up, but not under crop, has increased from 96,420 acres to 148,352 acres, being an increase of 51,932 acres; and the land under other crops than grain crops has only increased from 20,435 acres to 58,967 acres, being an increase of 37,532 acres, or a total increase in these three classes of 188,488 acres out of the total increase of land in all crops, including sown grasses, of 868,277 acres.

The acreage under wheat was, in February, 1874, 132,428 acres, being only 631 acres larger than in 1873. The estimated aggregate produce of the wheat was 3,391,634 bushels, or 202,938 bushels in excess of the estimated produce in 1873. This produce, if realized when the crop is threshed, would yield an average of 25½ bushels of wheat to the acre, or an average of $11\frac{3}{10}$ bushels per head of the population as enumerated on March 1, 1874.

The average yield of wheat per acre in the different provinces has been returned as follows:—In the Middle Island: Otago 29¾ bushels, Canterbury 23¾, Marlborough 16¼, Nelson 17¼, Westland 3½ (in which province only 2 acres were in wheat); in the North Island: Wellington 23¼, Taranaki 20¼, Hawke's Bay 18½, and in Auckland 17½.

The amount of land in oats and barley has increased far more in proportion than the land in wheat, the number of acres in oats having increased from 96,958 to 109,472; and the estimated yield for February, 1874, is 3,292,807 bushels, against 2,618,085 in 1873.

The average produce per acre for 1874 was estimated at 29¾ bushels. The acreage under barley has increased from 15,266 acres in 1873 to 22,124 acres, with an increased estimated production from 325,101 bushels in 1873 to 606,492 bushels in 1874, and an average yield per acre of 27¼ bushels in 1874 against 21¼ bushels in 1873. Potatoes have, however, received less attention, the acreage in that crop having fallen from 12,623 in 1873 to 11,617 in 1874, showing a reduced estimated yield of 10,367 tons, and a reduced yield per acre, as compared with 1873, of three quarters of a ton.

Live Stock.—The information obtained in the collection of the Annual Agricultural Statistics does not include the numbers of the live stock in the Colony, but it appears convenient to introduce them compendiously as they were obtained at the census of March 1, 1874. In the following table the numbers of the principal descriptions of stock (exclusive of those belonging to aboriginal natives) are shown, together with a calculation of the proportionate numbers of each kind of stock to every 100 acres under cultivation.

	Horses.		Cattle.		Sheep.		Pigs.	
	Total Number Returned.	Proportionate Number to every 100 Acres under Cultivation.	Total Number Returned.	Proportionate Number to every 100 Acres under Cultivation.	Total Number Returned.	Proportionate Number to every 100 Acres under Cultivation.	Total Number Returned.	Proportionate Number to every 100 Acres under Cultivation.
Auckland -	14,555	6	105,595	43¼	340,241	139½	32,439	13½
Taranaki -	2,572	5½	17,621	38	51,321	111	3,598	8
Wellington -	13,402	4½	84,352	29½	1,116,965	391	15,479	5½
Hawke's Bay -	5,362	4	22,812	18	1,184,387	931	2,571	2
Nelson - -	4,749	8	25,793	44	591,384	1,011½	7,291	12½
Marlborough -	3,160	11	9,758	33	734,139	2,486½	4,043	13½
Canterbury -	23,757	5½	86,752	19½	3,325,630	750	37,181	8¼
Westland -	924	27	4,509	132	3,808	111½	895	26
Otago - -	30,840	7¼	136,921	33	4,826,988	1,045	20,253	5

Although the proportionate number of stock to every 100 acres under cultivation is given, it must not be inferred that there is a relation between the amount of stock and extent of cultivation. The bulk of the sheep and cattle are kept on large tracts of natural or artificial pasturage where no cultivation exists. No comparison can therefore be made with the returns of those countries where the agriculturist keeps stock, the number of which is regulated by the area of his agricultural land.

The general totals for the Colony (including the Chatham Islands), were: horses, 99,859; cattle, 494,917; sheep, 11,704,853; and pigs, 123,921. In addition to these there were 267 mules or asses, 14,276 goats, and 1,058,198 poultry of all descriptions.

Agricultural Implements.—It may be found convenient to give herewith the following items of information on kindred matters, which correctly belong to the returns of the census (taken on March 1, 1874), and the details of which will be included among the census abstracts when published:

On March 1, 1874, there were in the Colony 770 threshing machines (viz. 201 steam, 61 water, and 508 horse), 2,744 reaping machines, 18 steam ploughs, and 11 steam harrows.

Butter and Cheese.—The production of butter for the year pre-

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ceding the census was, according to the returns, 4,861,309 lbs., and of cheese 1,964,809 lbs. I must, however, remark more especially with regard to the first of these two items, that I place very little reliance on the figures given, as in nearly all instances no record of the production is kept by the producers, and the figures given by them are of the most haphazard description: such, possibly, as the weekly produce at the time multiplied by the number of weeks in the year, when for months there may be no butter made, and the yield during the season is continually varying, or other computation equally erroneous.

PART V.—LAW, CRIME, AND EDUCATION.

Civil Cases.—There were 642 civil cases commenced in the Supreme Court during the year 1873: of these 42 were tried before juries. 374 civil cases were commenced in the various District Courts during the same period: of these, 315 came to trial, and 59 cases lapsed or were discontinued. There were 17,163 civil cases heard before the various Magistrates' Courts. The amounts sued for were in the aggregate 177,893*l.* 15*s.*, and the aggregate amounts for which judgments were given were 87,852*l.* 0*s.* 1¼*d.*

Bankruptcy.—There were 425 petitions in bankruptcy during the year—257 in the Supreme Court and 168 in the District Courts. The number of debtors discharged immediately amounted to 284, and those discharged after suspension to 40. In 7 cases the discharge was refused; in 97 cases the petitions were withdrawn, dismissed, or lapsed; and in 14 cases were arranged without further proceedings in Court.

Criminal Cases.—There were 242 criminal cases tried before the Supreme Court. In 156 of these cases convictions ensued: 40 males and 2 females were convicted of offences against the person; 84 males and 1 female were convicted of offences against property; and 27 males and 2 females were convicted of miscellaneous offences.

In the various District Courts there were 52 criminal cases tried, resulting in 33 convictions, all of males. Of these convictions, 8 were for offences against the person, 10 were for offences against property, and 15 were for miscellaneous offences.

The c,onvictions before the Magistrates' Courts numbered 12,151, viz., 11 022 of males and 1,129 of females. 813 males and 70 females were convicted of offences against the person; 482 males and 62 females were convicted of offences against property; and 4,494 males and 501 females were convicted of drunkenness. There were 3,171 convictions for offences against Acts relating to the social economy of the Colony. 2,193 males and 365 females were convicted of other offences.

The total convictions in all the Courts for offences against the person amounted to 933, viz. 861 of males and 72 of females; and for offences against property, 639, viz. 576 of males and 63 of females.

One hundred and fifty-nine Maoris were convicted of various offences during the year. 39 of these cases were for larceny, 61 for drunkenness, and 27 for assault. There was 1 case of horse

stealing; the rest were for various offences. 1 Maori was convicted of lunacy.

The number of prisoners received in the various gaols during the year 1873, not including those incarcerated for debt or lunacy, amounted to 3,560, or excluding the Maori cases, 65, the number was 3,495, or 1·21 per cent. of the mean population for the year. Of these, the number of criminals sent to gaol on charges of felony amounted to 376 (not including Maoris, 20), or ·13 per cent. of the mean population; and on charges of misdemeanour (not including Maoris, 12), 431, or ·15 of the mean population.

Fourteen children under 10 years of age were sent to gaol—1 on a charge of felony; 47 between 10 and 15 years were sent to gaol, of whom 7 were committed for felony.

Of the total prisoners received in the various gaols during the year, 1,151 (viz. 756 males and 395 females) had been previously committed. Of these, 314 males and 46 females had only been committed to gaol once previously; 160 males and 59 females had been committed twice previously; 282 males and 280 females had been committed three or more times previously; and 65 aboriginal natives were committed to gaol for various offences, of whom 20 were under sentence for felony.

Common Schools.—The number of common schools either receiving aid from the various Provincial Governments or being under the control of School Boards was in December, 1873, 494, having a total of 824 teachers, and with the names of 33,790 pupils on the books, against 27,096 in 1872. The daily average attendance of the pupils amounted to 23,801, viz. 13,093 boys and 10,708 girls.

Of the 33,790 on the books, 19,749 were under the age of 10 years, 13,696 were of the age of 10 and under 15 years, and 345 were 15 years old and upwards.

Of the pupils attending the common schools, about 7 per cent. would appear to be receiving a superior kind of education beyond the common branches of education taught. The number of pupils at these schools learning music was 6,237.

Superior Schools.—The number of superior schools receiving Government aid or under School Boards, in December, 1873, was 4, having a total of 23 teachers, and with the names of 498 pupils on the books, of whom the daily average attendance was 472, viz. 341 boys and 131 girls. The only public superior girls' school was in Otago.

Private Schools.—The number of private schools in the Colony in December, 1873, for which returns have been received by me, amounted to 182, viz. 33 for boys only, 40 for girls only, and 109 mixed. The number of teachers at those schools was 425, viz. 146 males and 279 females. The number of scholars attending those schools was 6,739, viz. 3,163 males and 3,576 females, and the daily average attendance of both sexes was 5,814.

There appear thus to be in the Colony 680 schools for the education of the European portion of the population, attended by 41,027 pupils, viz. 21,774 boys and 19,253 girls, and requiring 1,272 teachers, viz. 647 males and 625 females, so that of the population, other than the Maori population, on December 31, 1873, 13·86 per cent. were at-

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tending schools as pupils. In other words, nearly 1 in every 7 of the population was attending school.

Education Rates.—The education rates collected in the different provinces amounted to the sum of 15,792*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* The fees collected amounted to the sum of 14,912*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* The Government grants in aid, to 57,772*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* The receipts from other sources (as rents and local contributions) amounted to 4,568*l.* The total revenue of the various public schools reached the amount of 93,054*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*, of which sums amounting to 19,663*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* are specified as having been granted for school-buildings and furniture. These sums do not include the payments made on account of the 6,739 children attending private schools, or the Auckland and Nelson College and Grammar Schools, supported by fees and endowments.

Native Schools.—The number of schools established for the education of children of the Maori race amounted in December, 1873, to 33. The average number of Maori pupils attending these schools was 1,041, viz. 809 males and 232 females. The number of teachers was 48, of whom 45 were Europeans, viz. 32 males and 13 females; and 3 were Maoris, viz. 2 males and 1 female.

There were also 14 European schools (included in the previous numbers given for European schools), which were subsidized by the Government for the support of Maori pupils. The number of Maoris attending these schools was 203, viz. 117 males and 86 females. The total number of Maori children thus receiving education was 1,244, viz. 926 males and 318 females. As the recent Maori census gives an approximate number of 8,117 males under 15 years of age and 7,112 females under 15 years of age (exclusive of half-castes in the South Island), it appears that of the children under 15 years of age, 11·41 per cent. of the males and 4·47 per cent. of the females attend school.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WM. R. E. BROWN,
Registrar-General.

The Hon. Daniel Pollen.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY of the COLONY of NEW ZEALAND from 1853 to 1873 Inclusive.

Year.	Population.			Able to Read and Write.*	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages	Immigration (excess over Emigration).	Inhabited Houses.*	Crown Lands.			Land (including Sown Grasses) under Cultivation.
	Males.	Females.	Totals.							Waste Lands sold in each Year.	Cash Realized.	Free Grants.	
										acres.	£	acres.	acres.
1853	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,091	—	—	—	—	—
1854	17,914	14,640	32,554	—	—	—	—	2,057	—	—	—	—	—
1855	20,781	16,411	37,192	—	1,460	470	406	3,937	—	—	—	—	—
1856	25,356	20,184	45,540	—	1,722	406	404	2,525	—	51,972	33,156	14	—
1857	27,606	22,196	49,802	—	1,966	434	478	3,042	—	141,159	79,060	6,169	121,648
1858	33,679	25,734	59,413	37,681	2,272	582	534	6,130	12,812	239,128	150,839	6,277	141,007
1859	41,107	30,486	71,593	—	2,647	704	603	8,637	—	477,021	222,885	45,730	156,940
1860	45,394	34,317	79,711	—	3,146	1,092	690	6,064	—	424,254	204,113	47,016	—
1861	61,062	37,959	99,021	65,753	3,441	1,109	878	16,222	22,398	449,358	285,365	18,834	226,621
1862	79,680	46,132	123,812	—	4,064	1,231	1,091	20,991	—	658,337	506,657	40,335	—
1863	105,978	58,070	164,048	—	5,115	1,983	1,485	35,120	—	529,437	380,998	66,853	—
1864	106,580	65,578	172,158	123,088	6,501	2,921	1,878	8,527	37,996	691,174	595,858	47,198	382,655
1865	117,376	73,231	190,607	—	7,490	2,757	1,908	12,309	—	503,112	341,094	62,681	—
1866	125,080	79,034	204,114	—	8,466	2,540	2,038	7,599	—	603,406	528,028	55,975	—
1867	131,929	86,739	218,668	151,431	8,918	2,702	2,050	4,859	54,015	288,917	287,416	76,743	676,909
1868	134,621	91,997	226,618	—	9,391	2,662	2,085	860	—	199,309	182,065	42,205	—
1869	140,112	97,137	237,249	—	9,718	2,721	1,931	3,641	—	112,211	115,941	145,449	783,435
1870	145,732	102,668	248,400	—	10,277	2,703	1,851	3,577	—	76,766	88,419	37,256	997,477
1871	156,431	110,555	266,986	173,459	10,592	2,642	1,864	4,786	57,182	92,642	110,973	123,796	1,140,279
1872	162,404	117,156	279,560	—	10,795	3,194	1,873	4,973	—	338,576	389,107	183,673	1,226,222
1873	170,406	125,540	295,946	—	11,222	3,645	2,276	8,811	—	786,250	980,758	484,541	1,416,933

* This information has been correctly ascertained only for the years in which a census of the Colony was taken.

Year.	Live Stock.*				Postal.					Shipping.			
										Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Letters (Received and Despatched).	Newspapers (Received and Despatched).	Postal Revenue.	Number of Money Orders Issued.	Amount of Money Orders Issued.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
					Number.	Number.	£		£				
1853	—	—	—	—	119,039	177,583	—	—	—	238	65,504	229	62,891
1854	—	—	—	—	138,482	201,381	—	—	—	293	74,831	293	76,718
1855	—	—	—	—	171,407	238,522	—	—	—	378	88,614	341	79,825
1856	—	—	—	—	196,760	271,254	—	—	—	326	85,748	323	82,991
1857	—	—	—	—	337,721	498,163	—	—	—	289	78,309	283	76,524
1858	14,912	137,204	1,523,324	40,734	482,856	684,348	6,024	—	—	339	90,118	322	82,293
1859	—	—	—	—	707,870	839,385	7,812	—	—	438	136,580	398	120,392
1860	—	—	—	—	890,369	1,029,356	10,068	—	—	398	140,276	398	140,293
1861	28,275	193 285	2,761,583	43,270	1,236,768	1,428,351	14,108	—	—	596	197,986	546	205,350
1862	—	—	—	—	2,122,232	2,064,123	22,710	1,410	6,590	813	301,365	783	288,647
1863	—	—	—	—	3,403,248	3,397,669	32,329	11,586	55,703	1,154	419,935	1,094	394,665
1864	49,409	249,760	4,937,273	61,276	4,151,142	4,306,017	39,302	16,591	78,556	1,117	426,004	1,089	433,253
1865	—	—	—	—	4,443,473	4,206,992	46,475	17,236	78,576	862	295,625	783	283,020
1866	—	—	—	—	4,758,644	4,373,039	49,598	22,710	108,779	1,019	330,303	986	306,979
1867	65,715	312,835	8,418,579	115,104	4,811,240	3,060,888	55,331	24,473	115,610	944	309,568	950	308,169
1868	—	—	—	—	4,977,199	3,283,615	57,107	25,854	118,211	851	277,105	873	287,710
1869	—	—	—	—	5,016,595	3,563,147	58,007	28,427	127,218	764	250,731	771	247,764
1870	—	—	—	—	5,645,879	3,889,662	55,780	31,864	140,454	756	273,151	766	265,407
1871	81,028	436,592	9,700,629	151,460	6,081,697	4,179,784	70,249	36,291	157,397	729	274,643	709	265,618
1872	—	—	—	—	6,958,543	4,411,091	94,733	44,660	191,009	775	300,302	743	285,366
1873	—	—	—	—	7,915,985	5,269,195	94,706	52,351	219,258	739	289,297	704	281,847

* This information has been correctly ascertained only for the years in which a census of the Colony was taken.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 17.

General Sir W. F. WILLIAMS, Bart., G.C.B., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Gibraltar, June 16, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the Blue Book of Gibraltar for the year 1874, the accuracy of which has been certified by the Colonial Secretary.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total revenue collected in 1874 amounted to 40,410*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*, showing an apparent decrease of 8,772*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* as compared with the previous year. The difference is attributable to a special receipt in 1873 of 5,596*l.* 12s. 8*d.* from the Spanish Government, in repayment of the Bonell ransom, and to a decrease under the following items of revenue:—

	£	s.	d.
Duties on wines and spirits - -	575	13	2
Tonnage dues - - - - -	1,318	15	7
Auction dues - - - - -	576	13	4
Wharfage tolls - - - - -	99	19	5

The total expenditure for the year, as shown in the return, was 42,430*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* From this must be deducted the sum of 3,000*l.* remitted to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, for investment. The net expenditure was 39,430*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*, as against 33,376*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* in 1873, the increase of expenditure being the result of the following extraordinary payments:—

1. Thirteen months' salaries paid in 1874, against twelve months paid in 1873.
2. Grant to the Sanitary Commissioners in aid of the general sanitary purposes rates, 1,500*l.*
3. Refund to the Admiralty for expenses incurred in raising the wreck 'Lutin,' 881*l.*
4. Increase of the Government grant for education, 535*l.*

Legislation.

The following proclamations and notice were promulgated during the year, viz.:—

1. Proclamation putting in force Her Majesty's Order in Council dated 20th November, 1873, for carrying into effect a treaty between Her Majesty and the Emperor of Brazil, for the mutual extradition of fugitive criminals.
2. Notice publishing for general information copy of the treaty of the 23rd July, 1873, and of the Supplementary Convention of the 24th January, 1874, between Great Britain and France.
3. Proclamation putting in force Her Majesty's Order in Council,

GIBRALTAR.

dated 17th March, 1874, for carrying into effect a treaty between Her Majesty and the Emperor of Austria for the mutual extradition of fugitive criminals.

4. Proclamation signifying the making and passing, in the Session of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, held at Westminster in the 37th and 38th years of Her Majesty's reign, of an Act intituled "An Act to regulate the "Sentences imposed by Colonial Courts where jurisdiction to try is "conferred by Imperial Acts."

5. Proclamation putting in force Her Majesty's Order in Council, dated 6th August, 1874, for carrying into effect a treaty between Her Majesty and the King of the Netherlands, for the mutual extradition of fugitive criminals.

6. Proclamation putting in force Her Majesty's Order in Council, dated at the Court at Windsor, on the 12th day of May, 1874, for making better provision for the sewerage and drainage of, and a supply of water to, Gibraltar, for the prevention of nuisances, and for the improvement of the health, the diminution of disease, and the promotion of the comfort of the inhabitants, and of Her Majesty's naval and military forces, of her officers and servants, and of all other persons resident or being in Gibraltar.

7. Proclamation signifying the making and passing, in the Session of Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, held at Westminster in the 37th and 38th years of Her Majesty's reign, of an Act intituled "An Act for further promoting the Revision "of the Statute Law, by repealing certain enactments which have "ceased to be in force or have become unnecessary."

Public Works.

The public works carried on during the past year were not of a character to call for any special remarks. The amount expended in repairs and additions to Government buildings, the improvement of the public cemetery, and the Alameda Gardens, was 3,281*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*

Shipping.

The total number of vessels entered at this port in 1874 was 5,027, of which 2,765 were steamers and 2,262 sailing vessels, of an aggregate of 2,127,774 tons. The return shows a decrease of 457 sailing vessels, and an increase of 10 steamers, as compared with the arrivals in 1873, the difference in the total tonnage being only 4,524.

Education.

The number of schools receiving Government aid was the same as last year, namely, 9. The returns furnished by the treasurers, and examined by the auditor, show an improvement in the attendance for 1874 on those of 1873, and the general efficiency, discipline, and instructions are more satisfactory than at any former period.

Population.

The gross civil population is estimated at 18,695, including 2,241 aliens on temporary permits. The military population, according to

the return furnished by the town major on the 31st December, was 6,499.

The births and deaths registered during the year were as follows: —Births, 591; deaths, 550: showing an increase of 91 births, and a decrease of 13 deaths, as compared with 1873.

The mortality of the entire civil population for the past year has been calculated by the Registrar of Births and Deaths at 23·9 per thousand.

Remarks.

The general health of this fortress was in 1874 remarkably good, and the trade and general condition of the Colony were likewise satisfactory.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. F. WILLIAMS,
General and Governor.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

MALTA.

No. 18.

Governor Lieut.-General Sir C. Z. VAN STRAUBENZEE, G.C.B., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Palace Valletta, May 21, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1874, to which I append, for the information of your Lordship, a few remarks by Sir Victor Houlton, the Chief Secretary to this Government.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. T. VAN STRAUBENZEE,
Governor.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 15.

Chief Secretary's Office, Valletta,
May 21, 1875.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency the annual Blue Book for the year 1874, with remarks for your Excellency's information.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) VICTOR HOULTON,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To his Excellency the Governor.

Legislation.

Nine Ordinances were passed during the year, namely:—

No. 1. To make certain provisions for the prevention of accidents at sea, and for the better protection of maritime trade.

No. 2. To amend the law relative to prisoners that may be found on board merchant ships.

MALTA.

No. 3. To amend the laws relating to the extradition of individuals accused of, or sentenced for, offences committed in foreign countries.

No. 4. To amend the criminal laws.

No. 5. For exempting the congregation of the SSmi Nomi di Gesù e di Maria, erected in the church of San Rocco, in Valletta, from the obligatiou of selling certain landed property.

No. 6. For exempting the collegiate and parish church of the city of Senglea from the obligation of selling certain landed property.

No. 7. For applying a sum not exceeding 101,189*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* to the service of the year 1875.

No. 8. To amend the police laws.

No. 9. To provide new means of postal communication between Malta and Sicily.

Pensions.

The sum of 897*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.* was granted to new pensioners during the year 1874, and the pension list has been relieved of 1,191*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*

The total expenditure under this head amounted to 13,504*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, and that of the previous year (1873) to 14,074*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*

Civil Establishments.

No situation of a responsible nature has become vacant during the year 1874.

Military Expenditure.

The total cost of the military establishment for the year 1874 amounted to 250,526*l.* 15*s.*

Savings Banks.

The total number of depositors during this year was 3,077, and the amount of deposits on 31st December, 1874, was 181,513*l.* 9*s.* 10¾*d.*, giving an increase in Malta of 7,396*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*, and in Gozo of 308*l.* 18*s.* 6¼*d.*

Total increase, 7,705*l.* 16*s.* 7¼*d.*

Malta—number of depositors			2,908
Gozo	„		169
			3,077
	£	*s.*	*d.*
Malta—amount of deposits	173,828	4	11½
Gozo „	7,685	4	11¼
	£181,513	9	10¾

Population.

The total population of these Islands, as returned in the Blue Book herewith enclosed, amounts to 145,599.

Males	72,070
Females	73,529
	145,599

This figure scarcely shows any difference in the rate of population as given on 31st December, 1873.

The number of births was 4,596; marriages, 1,083; and deaths, 4,601.

The population to the square mile is, exclusive of the Queen's troops:— {Malta, 1,330$\frac{22}{95}$; Gozo, 907$\frac{17}{20}$. {Malta and Gozo, 1,266$\frac{9}{115}$.

Shipping.

The total number of vessels belonging to the port of Malta on 31st December, 1874, was 137, representing 26,492 tons.

Six vessels were wrecked; four sold to foreigners; one broken up; three ceased to be British ships; and six were added to the number of vessels belonging to this port.

The number of steamers which entered this port, during the year 1874, shows the usual increase over the number of arrivals of sailing vessels:—

Steamers - -	2,378
Sailing vessels -	2,017
Increase -	361 in the number of steamers.

Their aggregate tonnage amounted to:—

	Tons.
Steamers - - - - - -	2,163,426
Sailing vessels - - - - -	217,327
Increase - -	1,946,099

Education.

The expenditure under this head gives an increase over last year (1873) of 144*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*, which has been caused by the opening of three schools; namely, two in 1874 and one in December, 1873.

The total expenditure amounted to 9,595*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*, and the average number of scholars attending the schools to 7,864.

Charitable Institutions and Public Dispensaries.

The total expense of the charitable institutions during the year 1874 amounted to 26,358*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*, and the admission of inmates into the several institutions numbered 4,672, giving an increase of expenditure over the preceding year (1873) of 234*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, and an increase in the admissions of 501 individuals.

Medical and surgical assistance was afforded by the police physicians to 74,637 out and indoor patients. This figure includes 3,106 vaccinations.

The number of foundlings farmed out in 1874 was 34, and the number of individuals who received out-door relief from public funds was 1,672.

Criminal Statistics.

The offences reported to the police or the magistrates in 1874 numbered 5,760, of which 705 were against the person, 2 against the good order of families, 486 against property, and 4,567 other offences. The corresponding numbers in 1873 were 776, 10, 501, and 4,386.

The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates for the above offences was 9,853, of which 8,682 were summarily convicted, 52 committed for trial in Her Majesty's Criminal Court, and 1,119 acquitted. The 52 cases tried before Her Majesty's Criminal Court were disposed of as follows:— 40 convicted, and 12 acquitted.

Public Works.

A sum of 33,134*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* was expended under this head during the year. It includes 1,240*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* for completing the restoration of the painted ceiling of St. John's church, and regilding the same. This work was commenced in November, 1867, and the amount expended upon it, up to the close of 1874, was 5,599*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* The construction of the tanks at Casal Zabban, mentioned in a previous Report, was also completed at an expense of 1,489*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*

The remaining expenditure was incurred in the construction of graves, &c., at the "Addolorata Cemetery," of an aisle in the Corradino prison for juvenile offenders, in repairing the damages caused by the storms in 1871 and 1873, in the construction and maintenance of the roads and streets, and in the ordinary current repairs.

Finance.

The average of the gross revenues of the five years immediately preceding 1874 was 164,582*l.*

The gross revenue of 1874 was 175,072*l.* 19*s.* 9¼*d.*; but in order to make a fair comparison between the revenue of 1874 and former years, the following exceptional items should be excluded:—

1871.

	£
Contribution from the Imperial Government in aid of water supply - - - - - -	8,000

1872.

Compensation by the Imperial Government towards the settlement of local claims in regard to the rental of the French Creek property from 1866 -	2,427
	£10,427

reducing the quinquennial average of the five years preceding 1874 to 162,496*l.*; and

	£
Balance in exchange of property for lands required for military purposes	732
Sale of Ordnance block	11,260
	£11,992

reducing the revenue of 1874 to 163,080*l.*

The comparison would stand as follows:—

	£
1874	163,080
1873	162,283

i.e. 797*l.* more in 1874 than in 1873, and 584*l.* above the reduced quinquennial average.

The actual expenditure was:—

	£	s.	d.
General estimate	147,779	18	2
Supply estimates	13,953	18	10
Total	£161,733	17	0

In comparing the revenue and expenditure of the year, the sum of (say) 12,368*l.* realized on the sale of property, &c., being considered capital for investment in the 3 per cent. Consols, must be excluded; and the result will be:—

	£
Revenue	162,704
Expenditure	161,733

leaving a balance in favour of revenue of 971*l.*

The state of finances of Malta may be summarily stated thus:—

	£	s.	d.
Balance of the Cashier and Crown Agents	47,377	16	11
Advances and outstanding balances	4,619	5	0¾
Stock in Consols, at 92 per cent., say	157,852	0	0
	£209,849	1	11¾

Deduct:—

	£	s.	d.			
Deposit liabilities	188,659	15	5¼			
Burthen on Scotch Church	1,097	0	0			
Balance of sales of land and Government property, say	232	6	6½			
				189,989	1	11¾
Credit balance on assets				£19,860	0	0

General Remarks.

In July, 1874, the high rate of mortality, as indicated by the Mortuary Returns, had so alarmingly increased, that the Govern-

ment, desirous that its causes should be examined, and information as to its nature and actual extent placed on record, directed that a Commission, composed of members of the medical profession, should analyze and report upon them. The Commission, six months after their appointment, made a full Report on the sanitary state of Malta and Gozo, and attributed its insanitary state to the following causes: —1. The condition of the inhabitants in regard to the defective state of the actual system of sewage and drainage. 2. Poverty, and the habitual use of food amongst the labouring classes wanting in nutrient principles; for example, the use of barley bread as an article of domestic consumption to replace wheaten bread, as also the use of rice, potatoes, and even the carob bean to supplement grain. 3. Overcrowding, which can be best particularly illustrated by the fact of Malta, with a superficial area of 95 square miles, numbering 1,330 persons to every square mile of surface, exclusive of garrison, fleet, and trading vessels, a density very nearly three times that of Belgium, which offers the most thickly populated area on the Continent, aggregating 451 persons to the square mile, whilst England and Wales have 389 only. 4. Intra-mural burials, which, though forbidden in the towns, are still permitted in the interior of churches in the villages. 5. Early and improvident marriages, to prevent which it would be most desirable that the great influence of the priesthood should be brought to bear with a view of discouragement. 6. Ignorance, causing, amongst other things, an excessive rate of infant mortality. With regard to the sewage and drainage improvement scheme, nothing was done in 1874, but there is every reason to hope that these important sanitary works will not be any longer delayed, and that the outfall tunnel and intercepting sewers will be commenced at once in the three cities, when the remaining supplementary works will eventually follow suit. With regard to the other insanitary conditions above mentioned—that of overcrowding and poverty—these can be best met by emigration, as an outlet for the excessive population and a means of restoring a healthy equilibrium, as also by amended sanitary legislation. Indeed, the subject of emigration, and that of an increased obedience to improved sanitary laws, are the two great questions of vital interest to Malta, which should be taken in hand by the Government and Council with as little delay as possible.

During the past year the great work begun by the late Sir Gaspard Le Marchant, namely, the extension of Malta Great Harbour, was finally completed, and the French Creek handed over to the Admiralty authorities, whilst the merchant shipping was moved into the newly-extended waters of the Marsa. With regard to the restoration of the Theatre Royal, this building has been left in its present partially destroyed state during the year 1874, but there is every reason to hope that, during the current year, steps will be taken to ensure its restoration.

The Island has been perfectly quiet during 1874, and the latter portion of the year unusually healthy.

VICTOR HOULTON,
Chief Secretary to the Government.

LAGOS.

No. 19.

Governor STRAHAN to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Cape Coast,
June 18, 1875.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Settlement of Lagos for the year 1874, together with the Administrator's Report thereon.

I have, &c.,
GEO. C. STRAHAN,
Governor.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

SIR, Government House, Lagos, June 14, 1875.

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Settlement for the year 1874.

2. The only changes which have taken place during the year affecting the taxation or duties, consist in the exemption from duty of articles imported by the Administrator for his private use, of books and printed matter, and of mathematical and scientific instruments. An Ordinance was also passed repealing an Ordinance of the previous year, which granted certain fees to officers of Customs attending at extra hours, and providing that all such fees should be paid into the Treasury, the officers receiving in lieu thereof a certain fixed compensation.

3. The total revenue of the year from all sources was 39,335*l.* Of this gross amount 33,715*l.* was derived from Customs, the other principal heads of revenue being :—

	£
Land revenue	282
Postage	349
Licences	1,616
Fines, forfeitures, &c.	1,485
Reimbursement in aid of expenditure	736
Government vessels	512

4. The expenditure of the year amounted to 37,296*l.* The principal items of expenditure were :—

	£
Establishments	18,353
Pensions, retired allowances, and gratuities	1,373
Education	350
Hospitals	723
Police and gaols	1,335
Works and buildings	928
Roads, streets, and bridges	955
Miscellaneous services	3,773
Aborigines	1,090
Drawbacks and refund of duties	1,778
Government vessels	1,336

LAGOS.

5. There are no local revenues raised and appropriated under the authority of any municipal or other body, not accounted for in the general revenue of the Settlement.

6. The public debt at the end of the year amounted to 20,000*l.*, being a loan from the Imperial Treasury in the beginning of the year 1873, to enable the Settlement to extricate itself from its financial embarrassment, caused by the closing of the roads into the interior by the native chiefs, and the consequent stoppage of trade.

7. There is no local militia; the expenditure, however, upon the armed and civil police and Government vessels amounted to 9,667*l.* Formerly, the Imperial Government contributed largely both to the military and naval protection of the Settlement, but in recent years the local expenditure has been much increased from the necessity of establishing an armed police force.

8. The expenditure under the head of works and buildings has been confined to repairs to buildings, streets and drains, and the construction of new drains; no public work of any importance having been undertaken during the year.

9. Under the head of legislation, no Ordinances have been passed in the Settlement, except the appropriation Ordinances, in addition to those mentioned in paragraph No. 2, a loan Ordinance was disallowed. The Settlements of Lagos and on the Gold Coast were separated from the Government of the West Africa Settlements, and erected into one Colony under a new charter, dated 24th July, 1874. There is one Executive Council and one nominated Legislative Council for the two Settlements.

10. In the civil department, several changes have taken place. Captain Strahan left for Cape Coast in June to assume the Government of the United Settlement, when the Government was administered by the acting collector of customs till my arrival in September. The offices of collector, chief magistrate, stipendiary police magistrate, and postmaster, became vacant during the year and temporary provision was made for the performance of the duties attaching to each. One death, that of the deputy-collector of customs, occurred in the Settlement during the year.

11. The pension list has been increased to the extent of 100*l.* by the retirement of Mr. Bellis, late harbour master.

12. The only power represented by a Consul is the German Empire.

13. The population of Lagos is estimated at over 60,000, but the return under this head cannot be considered reliable.

14. The Settlement has hitherto contributed little towards the promotion of religion and education. The Church Missionary Society, the Wesleyan Society, and the Roman Catholics are represented by ministers, churches, and schools. To each of these societies a grant of 100*l.* was given for the promotion of education. From the returns furnished for the Blue Book, the average attendance at the churches and chapels would appear to be:—

Church Missionary Society	1,365
Wesleyan	1,420
Roman Catholic	300

And the number of scholars of both sexes to be:—

Church Missionary Society - - - - -	837
Wesleyan - - - - - - -	185
Roman Catholic - - - - - - -	250

15. The value of the imports and exports for the year have been respectively 348,636*l.* and 486,327*l.* Large importations of spirits came from France and Germany, of cowries from Zanzibar, and of tobacco and rum from the Brazils. The principal exports are palm oil, palm kernels, and cotton.

16. The number of vessels entered was 192, with an aggregate tonnage of 33,524 tons; the number cleared was 211, of 39,154 tons. This return is exclusive of the mail steamers calling at Lagos on their outward and homeward voyage.

17. Reports have already been made upon the state and unsuitableness of the hired building now used as a gaol. Prison discipline cannot be effectively enforced. Plans and estimates for the erection of a new gaol have this year been prepared by Captain Sale, R.E. The criminal returns of the past year compare favourably with those of former years.

18. The hospital building is well adapted for the purpose; it is effectively conducted, and was originally built as a barrack for Imperial troops. There is no separate lunatic asylum or poor-house. Accommodation is provided for males in the debtors' prison, and for females in the criminal prison.

19. In conclusion, I would remark that the general prosperity of the Settlement has improved in consequence of the increased quantity of produce brought in, the result of the re-occupation of farms and plantations, which were abandoned in the years 1872 and 1873, when the roads were closed to the interior.

I have, &c.,

C. C. LEES, Administrator.

His Excellency Governor Strahan.

LONDON.

PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,

FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

PAPERS

RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

PART III. OF 1875.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1875.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1875.

[C.—1336.]

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No. 1.

To His Excellency the Right Hon. Sir FREDERICK TEMPLE, Earl of Dufferin, K.P., K.C.B., Governor General of the Dominion of Canada, &c., &c., &c.

Ottawa, February 4th, 1875.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

The undersigned has the honour to present to your Excellency the tables of the trade and navigation of the Dominion of Canada, for the fiscal year ending 30th June 1874, as prepared from official returns, and laid before him by the Commissioner of Customs.

All which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) IZAAC BURPEE,
Minister of Customs.

To the Honourable ISAAC BURPEE, Minister of Customs, &c., &c., &c.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to lay before you the tables of trade and navigation for the fiscal year ended 30th June 1874. These statistics were compiled during the incumbency of my respected predecessor in office, R. S. M. Bouchette, Esq., but as the press work was not completed until after my accession to office, it devolves upon me to present them for your information and acceptance, and in doing so it becomes my duty to supplement the several tabulated statements with a few explanatory and suggestive notes.

The following is a reproduction of a condensed comparative statement, published in the Commissioner's report for the year ended 30th June 1873, showing the value of exports and imports, and of goods entered for consumption, with the duty collected thereon for seven years, from 1868 to 1874 inclusive, and the aggregate of the whole:—

—	Total Exports.	Total Imports.	Entered for Consumption.	Duty.
	dols.	dols.	dols.	dols. cts.
Fiscal year ending 30th June 1868 -	57,567,888	73,459,644	71,985,306	8,819,431 63
Do. do. 1869 -	60,474,781	70,415,165	67,402,170	8,298,909 71
Do. do. 1870 -	73,573,490	74,814,339	71,237,603	9,462,940 44
Do. do. 1871 -	74,173,618	96,092,971	86,947,482	11,843,655 75
Do. do. 1872 -	82,639,663	111,430,527	107,709,116	13,045,493 50
Do. do. 1873 -	89,789,922	128,011,281	127,514,594	13,017,730 17
Do. do. 1874 -	89,351,928	128,213,582	127,404,169	14,321,882 67
Aggregate for seven years -	527,571,290	682,437,509	660,200,440	78,910,043 87

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This exhibit of the trade of the Dominion needs little comment. It shows a steady and continuous increase under each heading, with the exception of the second year after Confederation (1869), in which there appears a slight diminution in imports and revenue.

The value of the annual increase, however, as an index of the trade of the country must be modified by the following considerations:—

The first three years represent the business of four provinces only, viz., Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia.

Manitoba was received into the Union in 1871, and the statistics of the year include six months' business of that province, amounting to $254,063. Total imports, $286,337 entered for consumption, and $15,723 22 duty collected.

In 1872, the total imports of Manitoba were valued at $942,247. Entered for consumption, $1,020,172, upon which $46,839 90 duty was collected. The exports of this province for the same year were valued at $85,541; in this year also the imports and exports of British Columbia were introduced, the amounts being as follows:—Total imports, $1,790,352; entered for consumption, $1,767,068; duty collected, $342,400 48. Value of exports $1,912107.

The statistics of 1873 show the imports of Manitoba to be:—Total imports, $918,336. Entered for consumption, $1,029,130; and duty collected, $48,074 45; and the export, $246,983; nearly all of which consisted of "furs" or skins of wild animals. In Manitoba it will be observed that the value of goods entered for consumption has exceeded the value of total imports each year. This is caused by the large quantities removed in bond from Ports in Ontario and Quebec, which are included in the total imports of those provinces. The returns of British Columbia this year give the value of total imports, $2,191,011. Entered for consumption, $2,076,476; duty collected, $302,147 65; exports, $1,792,347.

In the present year (1874) the total dominion exports and imports include the following amounts for Manitoba, British Columbia, and Prince Edward Island:—

Manitoba:—Exports, $797,762; total imports, $1,797,033; entered for consumption, $1,853,659; duty collected, $67,471 97.

British Columbia:—Exports, $2,120,624; total imports, $2,085,569; entered for consumption, $2,048,336; duty collected, $336,494 47.

Prince Edward Island:—Exports, $722,129; total imports, $1,908,522; entered for consumption, $1,913,696; duty collected, $219,458 07.

The exports of British Columbia consist, to the extent of about one half, of gold in dust and bar, and the remainder is fairly divided between other products of the mine, chiefly coal, the forest, the fisheries, and animals and their produce.

Of the exports of Prince Edward Island, about two-thirds consist of agricultural products and animals, the principal trade being with Great Britain.

The following statement will show the annual increase in the trade of the four original provinces of the Dominion, exclusive of those subsequently admitted to the Union.

Value of exports, goods imported, entered for consumption, and duty collected, in the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, for the following years:—

—	Total Exports.	Total Imports.	Entered for Consumption.	Duty.
	dols.	dols.	dols.	dols. cts.
Year ended 30th June 1868 - -	57,567,888	73,459,644	71,985,306	8,819,431 63
Do. do. 1869 - -	60,474,781	70,415,165	67,402,170	8,298,909 71
Do. do. 1870 - -	73,573,490	74,814,339	71,237,603	9,462,940 44
Do. do. 1871 - -	74,173,618	95,838,908	86,661,145	11,827,932 53
Do. do. 1872 - -	80,642,015	108,697,928	104,921,876	12,626,253 12
Do. do. 1873 - -	87,750,592	124,902,934	124,408,988	12,667,508 07
Do. do. 1874 - -	85,711,413	122,422,458	121,588,478	13,798,458 16
Aggregate for seven years -	519,893,797	670,551,376	648,205,566	77,501,433 66

A glance at this table is sufficient to show, not only a steady, but a rapid increase in the commerce of the four provinces included in it, since the accomplishment of Confederation. The slight falling off in the imports of 1869 is scarcely noticeable, and the decline of two millions in the value of the exports, and two and one half millions in that of the imports of 1874, is attributable to the depression prevailing in the United States in all departments of trade, rather than to any reverses originating in Canada. Indeed, the whole difference in the aggregate values of imports between 1873 and 1874 may be accounted for by the reduction in prices, not only in the United States, but also in Great Britain during the latter year, and is not to be accepted as indicating a reduction in quantities. This will be apparent when it is remembered that an average reduction of two per cent. in values would account for the whole decrease of 1874.

The relative bearing of the Customs Tariff upon the commerce of each province of the Dominion is exhibited in the following table:—

Years.	Per-centage of Duty on Total Value of Imports, Dutiable and Free.							
	Ontario.	Quebec.	Nova Scotia.	New Brunswick.	Manitoba.	British Columbia.	Prince Edward Island.	Dominion.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1868 -	08·85	14·04	12·40	13·59	—	—	—	12·00
1869 -	08·62	13·68	12·50	13·58	—	—	—	11·78
1870 -	09·26	14·78	13·00	14·85	—	—	—	12·65
1871 -	09·87	13·81	12·42	14·63	06·18	—	—	12·32
1872 -	10·30	12·50	10·75	13·62	04·97	19·12	—	11·70
1873 -	08·76	10·94	10·75	11·79	05·23	13·79	—	10·17
1874 -	08·84	12·83	12·56	13·72	03·75	16·13	11·50	11·25

The above shows the actual per-centage of Customs duties levied each year from 1868 to 1874, inclusive. The calculations are based upon total imports, including the value of free as well

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as dutiable goods. It will be seen that, under the variety of changes which the tariff has undergone since 1868, there has been very little variation in the average per-centage of duties levied under each, and in 1874 there is actually a slight decrease as compared with 1868.

The greatest difference appears in the comparison of Ontario and Quebec. This is accountable for on two grounds. Chiefly from the fact that the proportion of free goods imported in Ontario is very much in excess of any other province of the dominion, owing to the larger number and greater extent of the manufactories in operation in that province, the raw material used in which is generally found on the free list; while the reverse of this is true of the Province of Quebec. The importation of large quantities of foreign grain also in Ontario, which is entered free of duty, and afterwards exported chiefly from the Port of Montreal, either unchanged or in the forms of flour and meal, contributes largely to produce this result.

It must be remembered also that the Port of Montreal is nearly as much a feeder of Ontario as of Quebec, particularly in those classes of imports subject to the highest rates of duty. Not only is there a very large proportion of the dutiable imports of Montreal purchased there in bond, for removal to ports in Ontario, but many small dealers in various localities in the latter province purchase their stock from Montreal merchants, duty paid. For the purpose of comparison, therefore, with other Provinces, the aggregate imports of Ontario and Quebec should be taken together, and the combined per-centage will be found to be 10·88 for the last year, and a similar result would be obtained by the same means in reference to all former years. This calculation still leaves the combined provinces of Ontario and Quebec represented as paying a smaller per-centage of Customs duty than any of the other provinces except Manitoba, but the same result would not be obtained were the calculations made to embrace all other sources of revenue, because those provinces consume a much larger proportion of excisable goods, such as domestic liquors and tobacco, and pay an equally large proportion of excise duty.

In the Province of New Brunswick the per-centage of duty paid has steadily ranged at a somewhat higher figure than in Nova Scotia. This is accounted for also by the larger proportion of free goods imported in the latter province over the former.

The small per-centage paid in Manitoba is, of course, owing to the continuance in force of the old Assinibonine tariff, under which the bulk of the importations paid only 4% duty. The dominion tariff, however, having been extended to that province on the 1st July last, the current year will present a better comparison.

In British Columbia the trade has not yet assumed the characteristics of the older provinces, and as nearly all their imports of dutiable goods are for home consumption the per-centage of duty must necessarily range at a high figure.

Years.	Rate of Customs Duties per Capital of Population paid in each Province, and in the Dominion from 1868 to 1874.							
	Ontario.	Quebec.	Nova Scotia.	New Brunswick.	Manitoba.	British Columbia.	Prince Edward Island.	Dominion.
	dols. cts.	dols. cts.	dols. cts.	dols. cts.	dols. cts.	dols. cts.	dols. cts.	dols. cts.
1868 -	1 44	3 89	3 06	3 22	—	—	—	2 62
1869 -	1 32	3 60	2 86	3 22	—	—	—	2 43
1870 -	1 51	4 10	3 04	3 60	—	—	—	2 74
1871 -	2 05	4 99	3 42	4 24	2 63	—	—	3 39
1872 -	2 38	5 18	3 44	4 46	3 95	6 85	—	3 64
1873 -	2 65	4 93	3 21	4 36	4 05	6 04	—	3 63
1874 -	2 69	5 55	3 63	4 89	5 69	6 73	2 33	3 93

The same remarks, in explanation of the difference in the per-centage of duty paid in Ontario and Quebec, appended to the former table, will equally apply in reference to the above. The combined populations of these two provinces paid in 1874 the sum of $4·12 per head.

It will be observed that while the per-centage of duty and values of imports has remained nearly stationary for the seven years in question, the per capita taxation has steadily increased every year, ranging from 2·62 in 1868 to 3·93 in 1874. This circumstance, however, only proves that the increase in the commerce of the country has exceeded in proportion the increase of population, and is really one striking evidence of steadily increasing general prosperity.

The calculations in this table, in the case of the four original provinces, are based for the first three years upon the census of 1861, with the pro rata per-centage of increase as ascertained by the census of 1871 added to each year; and those for the four following years upon the census of 1871 without addition, there being no reliable data upon which to estimate the increase since the latter date. This, however, does not lessen the value of the comparison instituted, as the proportion of increase cannot be very different in each province.

The population of Manitoba is taken from the census of that province of 1870, and British Columbia, at 50,000 inhabitants as estimated.

When it is considered that the chief part of the revenue of the Dominion is necessarily raised by means of Customs duties, it will be conceded that the burden of such taxation as exhibited in the above bears very lightly upon our population, especially when compared with older countries.

ANNUAL per-centage of EXPENSES of COLLECTION of CUSTOMS REVENUE in each PROVINCE since CONFEDERATION.

Years.	Ontario.	Quebec.	Nova Scotia.	New Brunswick.	Manitoba.	British Columbia.	Prince Edward Island.	Dominion.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1868 -	07·14	04·35	08·66	08·48	—	—	—	05·99
1869 -	07·58	05·79	09·55	09·06	—	—	—	07·09
1870 -	06·83	03·59	08·26	06·28	—	—	—	05·41
1871 -	04·90	02·87	07·37	05·38	—	—	—	04·21
1872 -	04·29	02·77	06·89	05·61	17·03	—	—	04·04
1873 -	04·25	03·12	07·53	05·88	17·36	08·03	—	04·35
1874 -	04·95	02·94	07·77	06·27	15·87	05·91	08·05	04·55

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There are several points in this statement which are worthy of remark. Referring to the Dominion column, it will be observed that, with the exception of 1869, there has been a steady decline in the per-centage of expenses until 1873. This is the result of the large increase in revenue and the expenses not, of course, increasing in proportion; and in this connexion it may not be improper for me, very respectfully, to observe that the multiplication of small ports and outports of entry is one of the most fruitful sources of increased expenditure. Were it possible to restrict the Customs business to one half the number now established, the same amount of revenue could be collected at a very reduced per-centage of expense, and with much more uniformity in the administration of Customs laws, security to the revenue, and benefit to the fair trader.

In the comparison of the four original provinces of the Confederation, Nova Scotia has uniformly maintained the largest per-centage of expenses. This is owing to the large number of ports of entry required by the very extended seaboard of that province. While the peculiarities of the coast, however, necessarily demand a very large staff for the protection of the revenue, and the prevention of smuggling, it may be questioned whether these ends could not be better answered by having fewer ports and a larger number of preventive officers of a superior class, whose whole time should be engaged in the service.

The peculiar circumstances of Manitoba have hitherto, of necessity, involved expenses out of all proportion to those of the older provinces, but as population and commerce increase, and, under the operation of the Dominion Tariff, a large revenue will be secured and the difference will rapidly decline.

The cost of collection in Prince Edward Island for 1873–74 appears to be excessive, exceeding even that of Nova Scotia; but as the Act of Union was anticipated for some time before it took effect, and the Island Tariff was lower than that of the Dominion, an unusually large importation in the months of May and June was the result. This lessened very materially the revenue of the year under the Dominion Tariff, and increased the per-centage of expenses in proportion. The revenue of the current fiscal year will be very much larger, while the expenses will not be increased in proportion.

The following tables will be found interesting, as exhibiting the aggregate trade of the Dominion in its relations with Great Britain and her colonies, and foreign countries for three years, commencing with 1872 :—

No. 1 gives the value of imports and exports combined,
No. 2 gives the value of exports only,
No. 3 gives the value of goods entered for consumption, and
No. 4 gives the revenue derived from Customs duties.

Countries.	Aggregate Trade.		
	1872.	1873.	1874.
	dols.	dols.	dols.
Great Britain - - - -	89,011,676	107,266,624	108,083,642
United States - - - -	71,872,525	89,808,204	90,524,060
France - - - -	1,930,100	2,055,195	2,569,712
Germany - - - -	977,923	1,176,478	1,022,428
Spain - - - - -	459,242	502,966	459,027
Portugal - - -	189,655	266,188	294,007
Italy - - - - -	242,794	229,657	236,296
Holland - - - -	201,088	229,770	271,043
Belgium - - - -	265,121	364,456	534,153
British North American Provinces -	3,736,453	4,609,552	2,657,547
British West Indies - - -	3,447,938	2,933,548	2,916,595
Spanish West Indies - - -	2,911,042	2,767,432	2,595,356
French West Indies - - -	309,453	343,221	411,111
Other West India Islands - -	107,156	119,224	163,467
South America - - -	864,030	1,701,633	1,686,508
China and Japan - - -	438,070	1,709,856	1,263,728
Switzerland - - - -	110,982	120,514	139,674
Australia - - - -	31,926	430,174	98,733
South Africa - - - -	5,618	102,977	—
Other Countries - - -	437,805	566,847	829,010
Goods (not produce) exported - -	*12,798,182	—	—
Total - - -	190,348,779	217,304,516	216,756,097

* The distribution of this amount would add about 5,000,000 dollars each to Great Britain and the United States in 1872.

Countries.	Value of Exports.		
	1872.	1873.	1874.
	dols.	dols.	dols.
Great Britain - - - -	25,862,940	31,486,571	35,898,482
United States - - - -	36,232,939	40,554,655	35,061,117
France - - - -	102,242	31,907	267,212
Germany - - - -	36,232	76,553	65,511
Spain - - - - -	25,084	25,080	960
Portugal - - - -	122,225	191,156	192,663
Italy - - - - -	209,189	177,232	190,211
Holland - - - -	6,376	13,142	14,905
Belgium - - - -	60,777	17,754	168,694
British North American Provinces -	1,767,866	2,283,638	1,411,278
British West Indies - - -	2,319,702	1,939,733	1,958,933
Spanish West Indies - - -	1,632,681	1,614,312	1,246,371
French West Indies - - -	273,547	299,060	372,009
Other West India Islands - -	100,222	91,630	66,678
South America - - -	782,854	1,259,266	1,212,615
China and Japan - - -	49,711	46,389	38,024
Australia - - - -	30,823	40,965	98,478
South Africa - - - -	5,618	4,978	3,316
Other Countries - - -	220,453	229,991	470,375
Goods not the produce of Canada -	12,798,182	9,405,910	10,614,096
Total - - -	82,639,663	89,789,922	89,351,928

Countries.	Value of Goods entered for Consumption.		
	1872.	1873.	1874.
	dols.	dols.	dols.
Great Britain	63,148,736	68,522,776	63,076,437
United States	35,639,586	47,735,678	54,279,749
France	1,827,858	2,023,288	2,302,500
Germany	941,691	1,099,925	956,917
Spain	434,158	477,886	458,067
Portugal	67,430	75,032	100,544
Italy	33,605	52,425	46,085
Holland	194,712	216,628	256,138
Belgium	204,344	346,702	293,659
British North American Provinces	1,968,587	1,808,997	1,088,468
British West Indies	1,128,236	964,005	919,517
Spanish West Indies	1,278,361	1,143,241	1,340,235
French West Indies	35,906	43,412	30,502
Other West India Islands	6,934	24,274	17,479
South America	81,176	416,199	473,530
China and Japan	388,359	1,663,390	1,224,506
Switzerland	110,982	120,914	139,674
Australia	1,103	388,352	—
South Africa	—	97,999	—
Other Countries	217,352	293,871	396,839
Additional copyrights	—	—	3,323
Total	107,709,116	127,514,504	127,404,169

Countries.	Duty Collected.		
	1872.	1873.	1874.
	dols. cts.	dols. cts.	dols. cts.
Great Britain	7,917,246 01	7,398,460 17	7,867,481 41
United States	2,410,401 89	2,966,119 34	3,681,014 13
France	582,968 12	627,831 95	744,059 10
Germany	300,696 86	334,415 51	272,234 68
Spain	93,587 80	102,711 21	112,918 73
Portugal	20,411 75	21,245 21	27,674 63
Italy	9,717 53	9,320 80	13,626 76
Holland	313,368 24	294,569 02	361,153 47
Belgium	53,835 40	94,504 87	51,171 82
British North American Provinces	162,744 13	97,147 31	54,929 33
British West Indies	427,327 55	401,444 24	437,499 92
Spanish West Indies	512,362 30	412,117 42	488,019 41
French West Indies	6,420 91	9,049 77	9,929 84
Other West India Islands	3,883 44	9,319 43	203 94
South America	39,819 37	182,660 79	194,325 88
China and Japan	144,990 54	157 95	26,185 10
Switzerland	15,445 98	15,994 95	21,950 85
Australia	110 31	—	—
Other Countries	25,691 23	35,533 31	42,821 60
Amounts for which no returns were received by the Department	4,464 14	5,126 92	—
Differential duty	—	—	117 17
Differential export duty	—	—	14,564 90
Total	13,045,493 50	13,017,730 17	14,421,882 67

The aggregate trade with Great Britain and the United States has steadily increased, and in nearly the same ratio in each case, or about $14,000,000 total value, between 1872 and 1874. In the case of Great Britain $10,000,000 is the increase in exports and the remaining $4,000,000 is chiefly due to an increased importation of free goods, which leaves the amount of duty collected very nearly alike in both years. The advance in the trade with the United States, on the other hand, is sorely due to increased importations, while the value of our exports to that country is slightly less in 1874 than in 1872. It is a matter of regret that our direct trade with the West Indies, British and foreign, has slightly declined; but with South America it shows a gratifying increase.

Balance of Trade.

The great disparity between the values of imports and exports in each of the last two years may, to many persons, appear to be a startling feature in the commerce of the dominion. Many imagine that it is essential to a healthy condition that one should nearly, if not fully, balance the other. This is by no means true; and it is quite possible that a country actually exporting nothing, and importing largely, may still be prosperous and increase in substantial wealth.

It would be impossible, and perhaps improper, to discuss this great and vexed question at length in a paper like this; but I may be excused for calling attention to one or two facts which may disarm the statement, that our imports for 1873 and 1874 exceeded our exports to the amount of about $38,000,000, of some portion of its unpleasantness. Our imports represent a largely increased value immediately after reception in Canada, and are therefore fair assets against our indebtedness at that additional valuation.

A very large proportion also of our imports is of a reproductive description, and not only increases in value by the manipulations of manufacturers and others, but is the basis of solid and enduring structures, which are everywhere regarded as constituting legitimate items in the catalogue of a country's wealth. Particularly is this true when the constructions become a source of income; and when it is remembered that the excess of importations in question is attributable in a great degree to the construction and extension of railways and canals, and other public and profitable undertakings, which enhance the value of property and lay the foundation of increased public and private revenue, it will no longer be regarded as indicating decadence, but the reverse.

If the bulk of our importations consisted of articles essential for immediate consumption for the support of human life, as in the case of a famine stricken nation, or if our exports should fail to meet such expenditure, the case would be very different, and would soon ultimate in national bankruptcy; but when, as is the case in Canada, our importations can be, and are, made the capital

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to be used in profitable investments, or substantial and enduring improvements, there is nothing alarming in the excess of a few millions in the imports, even though continued for years.

Grain.

In view of the extended details which these returns furnish in a clear and concise form, it does not appear necessary to offer further explanations of many of the items. There has however, been much inquiry made by different persons respecting the transactions in grain, both foreign and domestic; and I therefore beg to remark that, owing to the fact of all kinds of grain being free of duty, and the peculiar nature of the transactions therein, it is a matter of great difficulty to keep up correctly the necessary distinction betwsen the foreign and domestic article. It is also matter of regret that the statistics required hitherto by this department have not embraced a more extended specification, the only items hitherto required being "wheat and Indian corn," while all other grains are grouped together. I propose to require, after the 1st July next, that "barley and oats" be separately shown.

As it respects the general correctnesss of the statements now given, however, I beg respectfully to observe that, having been impressed with the belief that serious errors had crept into the returns, I have made diligent inquiry at the various ports wherein such goods are chiefly imported and exported, and I am happy to say that the result has been to convince me that no important error has occurred, and that in the main the returns are reliable.

It is true that as the great mass of the exports of grain take place at the port of Montreal, and the imports of the foreign article are made at western ports, chiefly at Kingston, and Canadian grain is also chiefly sent from Ontario to Montreal for exportation, it is scarcely possible to prevent the foreign and Canadian goods from becoming so mixed in transportation as to render it exceedingly difficult to keep the distinction in the export entries. That this is done, however, with approximate correctness, will, I think, be apparent from the following statement:—

	Bushels.
Imported in 1873–74, wheat - -	8,390,443
Exported „ „ - -	4,929,842
On hand, taken into consumption or ground into flour and exported -	3,460,601
Imported in 1873–74, Indian corn - -	5,331,307
Exported „ „ - -	2,444,704
On hand, taken into consumption or ground into meal and exported -	2,886,603

	Bushels.
Imported in 1873–4, other grain - -	645,982
Exported „ „ - -*	
Total quantity of grain of all kinds imported	14,367,732
„ „ exported	7,374,546
On hand and taken into consumption or exported as flour and meal -	6,993,186

At the same time there were exported, chiefly at Montreal, of Canadian produce,—

	Bushels.
Wheat - - - - -	6,581,217
Indian corn - - - -	235,864
Other grain - - - -	6,553,478
Total exports of grain of Canadian produce	$13,370,559

The only error of any consequence which I conceive possible in these statements is in the substitution of Canadian grain for foreign in the exports; but as the liability to this mistake is equal on both sides, I am inclined to believe the whole to be very nearly correct. The entire quantity of 20,745,105 bushels of grain was certainly exported in 1873–74.

It should be understood that the returns do not embrace any grain which merely passes *in transitu* from one American port to another.

I am somewhat confirmed in my opinion that the quantities of dominion produce are not overstated, from having ascertained that the census returns of 1871 give the following, in round numbers, as one year's production of the respective kinds of grain.

	Bushels.
Wheat - - - -	16,300,000
Barley - - - - -	11,400,000
Oats - - - - -	42,400,000
Rye - - - - -	1,000,000
Buckwheat - - - -	3,700,000
Indian corn - - - -	3,800,000
Total - - -	78,600,000

Sugar and Molasses.

Referring to the importations of sugar and molasses, I beg leave to observe, that the former article, being subject to a specific and advalorum duty combined, and a very large amount of revenue being dependent upon its importation, it has necessarily engaged a very large share of your attention, especially in reference to its

* None exported, or may be included in export entries of Canadian grain.

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liability to entry at a serious undervaluation. Without venturing an opinion as to whether such frauds have actually taken place to any great extent or otherwise, I may state that there was entered for consumption, during the year, 85,452,194 pounds of sugar, equal to and above No. 9, Dutch Standard, at an aggregate value of $4,292,706, or a shade under 5¼ cents per lb. Of this quantity Great Britain furnished 26,839,495 lbs., costing a minute fraction under 5 cents per lb.; the United States, 29,164,957, at an average cost of 5·65 cents per lb., and the remaining quantity of 29,447,742 lbs. was imported chiefly from British and Foreign West Indies, and was entered at an average of 4·46 cents per lb.

Of sugars below No. 9 Dutch Standard, there were 16,469,485 lbs. entered for consumption at an average valuation of 3·73 cents per lb. Of this quantity, Brazil furnished 10,133,145 lbs., at 3·55 cents per lb. The remainder was imported chiefly from British and Foreign West Indies, with a small quantity from Great Britain, the United States, and the Island of Honolulu.

It is, of course, no part of my duty to express an opinion as to the policy of imposing one description or rate of duty or another, upon this or any other commodity; but as the collection of duties, such as are now levied upon sugar, require that the officers having to accept the entries should be not only intelligent, in a general sense, but should have a good practical knowledge of the business, I may be permitted, very respectfully, to suggest for your consideration whether it would be practicable or judicious to limit the number of ports at which the commodity should be entered. This system, I believe, has obtained in England, and would be especially important in case of any change in tariff which would increase the number of grades upon which different rates of duty should be imposed.

I beg leave to append to these observations a statement of the principal ports in the several provinces of the Dominion at which the chief importations of sugar now take place, with the quantities of each grade imported during the year.

Ontario.

	Lbs.
Total quantity imported—No. 9 and above -	25,471,343
„ „ „ Below No. 9 -	122,482
	25,593,825

Port of Brantford—No. 9 and above -		1,402,286
„ Clifton „ -		5,885,951
„ Hamilton „ -		1,412,769
„ Kingston—No. 9 and above - - -	3,229,020	
Port of Kingston—Below No. 9 - - -	27,990	
		3,257,010

	Lbs.		
Port of London—No. 9 and above	-	2,620,354	
„ Ottawa „	-	787,856	
„ Toronto—No. 9 and above - - -	8,884,017		
Port of Toronto—Below No. 9 - - -	94,205		
		8,978,222	
All other ports—No 9. and above	-	1,249,377	
			25,593,825

Quebec.

Total quantity imported—No. 9 and above	-	35,330,202
„ „ „ Below No. 9	-	10,674,055
		46,004,257

Port of Montreal—No. 9 and above - - -	31,718,558		
Port of Montreal—Below No. 9 - - -	10,668,822		
		42,387,380	
Port of Quebec—No. 9 and above - - -	3,536,545		
Port of Quebec—Below No. 9 - - -	5,013		
		3,541,558	
All other ports - - - -		75,319	
			46,004,257

Nova Scotia.

Total quantity imported—No. 9 and above	-	10,663,734
„ „ „ Below No. 9	-	2,097,424
		12,761,158

Port of Halifax, No. 9 and above - - -	10,185,902		
Port of Halifax, below No. 9	2,002,208		
		12,188,110	
All other ports - - - -		573,048	
			12,761,158

New Brunswick.

Total quantity imported—No. 9 and above	-	4,455,978
do. do. below No. 9 -	-	6,262
		4,462,240

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	Lbs.		
Port of St. John, No. 9 and above - - -	4,162,336		
Port of St. John, below No. 9	50		
		4,163,386	
All other ports - - -		298,854	
			4,462,240

British Columbia.

Total quantity imported, No. 9 and above - -		1,380,867
do. do. below No. 9 - - -		655,434
Port of Victoria - - - - -		2,036,301

Prince Edward Island.

Total quantity imported, No. 9 and above - -		277,928
do. do. below No. 9 - - -		30
Port of Charlottetown - - - -		277,958

Manitoba.

Total sugar imported, No. 9 and above - -		911,556
do. do. below No. 9 - - -		918
Port of Winnipeg - - - - -		912,474

Total quantity imported in the dominion, equal to and above No. 9, dutch standard - - -		85,452,194
Below No. 9 do. - - -		16,469,485
Total -		101,921,679

Molasses.

The quantity of molasses entered for consumption in 1874, was 52,728,709 lbs, or 4,793,519 gallons at an average valuation of 17½ cents and a minute fraction, per gallon. Of this quantity, the United States furnished 1,764,734 gallons at an average cost of 15.43 cents per gallon. British West Indies, 1,138,791 gallons at 19·81 cents, and foreign West Indies, chiefly the Spanish Islands, 1,657,196 gallons at 19·19 cents.

The molasses imported from the United States is principally the product of the sugar houses, and is a very inferior article, requiring straining or clarifying before it is fit for human food, which may sufficiently account for the lowness of the price as compared with the West India produce.

In the same period there was reported from the United States 812.201 gallons of sugar-house syrup, clarified or refined, at an average valuation of 35½ cents per gallon, upon which duty was collected at the rate of 25 per cent. ad valorem, and ⅝ cent. per lb.

specific. This article although generally attractive in appearance, being clear and bright, is not nearly so rich in saccharine matter as ordinary West India molasses.

In compiling this report an entirely new feature has been introduced in the shape of aggregate statements, for the Dominion, of imports and exports by countries. These statements will be found exceedingly valuable, as they present at one view the whole quantities and values of each article imported to, or exported from all Canadian ports during the fiscal year.

In reference to the specification adopted, I may be permitted to state that, in consideration of the necessity which has frequently arisen for more minute particulars than the present arrangement supplies, I have, with your sanction, made arrangements for a considerable extension, taking effect in the current year principally in a sub-division of the items of "cottons and woollens," and also in "hardware," and will be prepared to submit for your approval a still greater extension, to take effect from the 1st July next.

In connection with the above, I will also take the liberty of proposing for your consideration certain changes in the forms of returns from the ports, upon which the tables in this report are based, which I trust will be found to effect a large saving in labour, both at the respective ports of the dominion and this department, not only without impairing the usefulness of such returns, but presenting in some respects much more reliable and valuable information. The chief alterations thus contemplated may be foreshadowed, as dispensing with the columns now occupied in the returns of imports and exports, with a statement of quantities imported and exported in British and foreign vessels, and by land carriage. The object of these statements was to ascertain the relative proportion of the carrying trade performed by vessels of British or Foreign registry and ownership; but from the fact that the particulars can only be obtained in a diversity of forms, in some cases "weight," in others "measure," and in the largest number of cases under the very indefinite description of "packages," the relative weight of which it is impossible to ascertain, it will be readily seen that not even an approximation to the tonnage for freight carried by the vessels, can be thus obtained.

In dispensing with these columns, however, I do not propose to dispense with the information which they were intended to convey, but rather to adopt another and much easier and more accurate method of arriving at the desired result. This I propose to accomplish by requiring the actual tonnage of freight, inwards and outwards, of every vessel reporting and clearing to be embodied in the shipping returns. This information can be easily supplied by masters of vessels; and by requiring them to state it on the face of their maifests, it can be thence transferred to the Custom house records with very little additional trouble.

Should these alterations obtain our sanction, I may assure you that it will so materially reduce the labour of recording and

aggregating the imports and exports, at the respective Custom-houses and in this department, that it will ensure greater promptitude in forwarding and aggregating the returns, and give abundant room for extending the specifications to any limit which may be found desirable.

I also propose, with your approval, to adopt a form of record for the ports, and returns based thereupon, for licensed coasting vessels, and vessels sailing under transire from ports in one province to ports in another. These are not now included in any of the statements furnished, and as their number is large, and the inter-provincial trade carried on by their means of very considerable importance, I think you will probably approve of the adoption of a proper record of their movements.

It would appear also to be very desirable, now that the mercantile navy of the dominion has grown to such very large proportions, that the distinction should be maintained in our shipping returns, between vessels owned and registered in Canada, and British and foreign vessels. Should such be your desire it will necessitate an additional change in the forms of the shipping returns and the books of record kept at the ports, but will not involve much additional labour.

All of which is humbly submitted,

(Signed) J. JOHNSON,
Commissioner of Customs.

January 27th, 1875.

To the Honourable the MINISTER of INLAND REVENUE.

Department of Inland Revenue,
January 10, 1875

SIR,

HEREWITH I have the honour to submit statements of revenues collected by this Department for the fiscal year ended the 30th June, 1874, together with the usual information as to the cost of collecting the same, and the statistical details respecting the sources whence the revenues were derived.

The following summary comparison shows the accrued revenues for the years ended June 30, 1868, 1871, 1872, 1873, and 1874 respectively.

——	1867–68.	1870–71.	1871–72.	1872–73.	1873–74.
	dols.	dols.	dols.	dols.	dols.
Excise - -	3,078,212	4,301,389	4,762,378	4,513,194	5,612,582
Revenue public works	486,811	579,132	592,961	636,798	672,120
Culling timber -	70,886	63,228	74,512	79,767	95,913
Bill stamps - -	119,712	184,255	189,161	201,496	209,233
Total - -	3,755,621	5,128,004	5,619,012	5,431,255	6,589,848

The total revenue accrued during the fiscal year just closed was $6,589,848, as against $5,431,255 for the previous year, and $5,619,012 for the year 1871–72; being an increase of 21⅓ per

cent. as compared with the former, and of 21½ per cent. as compared with the average of the three previous years.

This increase, as compared with 1872–73, has occurred as follows:—

	dols.
Upon excise - - -	1,099,388
„ revenue public works -	35,322
„ culling timber - -	16,146
„ bill stamps - -	7,737

The increased excise revenue arises:

	dols.
Upon spirits - - -	678,224
„ tobacco - - -	387,714
„ petroleum - - -	36,663
„ manufactures in bond -	6,226
„ seizures - - -	1,240
	1,110,067

From which, however, there is to be deducted:—

	dols.
Decrease on malt liquor - -	1,027
„ „ - -	3,567
„ on other receipts -	6,085
	10,679

This increase is chiefly due to three causes:

1st.—To the additional rate of excise duty imposed on spirits and tobacco by the Act of last Session, which was in operation during two and and a half months of the fiscal year.

2nd.—To the withdrawal of excisable goods from bond during the first half of April, presumably in anticipation of an advance upon the then existing tariff, and

3rd.—To a natural increase in the quantities of excisable goods consumed by a population growing in numbers and in wealth.

To the first of these causes we may attribute about $104,000 of the increase. The extent to which the second and third causes operated may be approximately estimated from a comparison of the quantities of the several articles consumed during a series of years. The results of estimates so made, as will presently be shown, justifies the conclusion that from all sources the revenue of the fiscal year 1873–4 was enhanced to the extent of $526,611, by duties collected on goods that will be consumed during the current year, and on which the duties that would have been collected, had their entry for consumption been postponed until they were required under the normal conditions of trade, would have amounted to $680,046, by which amount

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the revenue of the year now current may be said to have been anticipated.

To avoid, as far as possible, turning from one return to another, the results of the several statistical tables, 1871–74, have been condensed, so as to exhibit a general history of the development of each source of revenue during the four years.

Spirits.

The following statement gives the transactions in spirits (in proof gallons) during the last fiscal year, and during the three years immediately preceding it.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
Fiscal Year.	In Warehouse at Commencement of Period.	Manufactured during the Year.	Taken for Consumption.	Exported.	Used in Bonded Factories.	Otherwise accounted for.	In Warehouse at end of Period.	Memo. of Revenue accrued thereon.
	proof gals.	pr. gals.	pr. gals.	pr. gals.	pr. gals.	pr. gals.	pr. gals.	dols.
1870–1 -	869,282	5,303,171	4,219,245	271,333	187,938	—	1,493,937	2,673,416
1871–2 -	1,493,937	4,870,326	4,569,949	431,673	203,466	18,332	1,140,843	2,884,067
1872–3 -	1,140,843	5,547,517	4,476,404	327,532	262,540	82	1,621,802	2,825,140
1873–4 -	1,621,802	5,433,741	5,479,809	197,676	281,090	1,125	1,095,843	3,503,364

By these figures it appears that the quantity produced during the year was only 5,433,741 gallons, as against 5,547,517 during the 12 months ended 30th June, 1873 ; or as against an average yearly production of 5,240,335 gallons during the three years immediately preceding. The quantity entered for consumption was 5,479,809, as against 4,476,404 for 1873, and as against an average annual consumption during 1871, 1872, and 1873, of 4,421,866 gallons.

On comparing columns Nos. 2 and 8 it will be seen that the quantities of spirits in bond, which during 1873 rose from 1,140,843 proof gallons at the commencement of the year, to 1,621,802 at its close, were, on the 30th June 1874, reduced to 1,095,843 gallons.

Of the last-mentioned quantity it has been ascertained that about 763,875 proof gallons were held by distillers, and 331,968 by dealers.

It has also been ascertained that of the stock of duty-paid spirits in hand at the close of each of the undermentioned years, the distillers held—

1874	-	-	- 639,409	proof gallons.
1873	-	-	- 239,128	„
1872	-	-	- 261,408	„

If the average held in 1872 and 1873, viz., 250,263 proof gallons, is accepted as the normal quantity of duty-paid spirits kept on hand to meet the ordinary requirements of trade, the quantity (389,146 proof gallons) held in excess of this on the 30th June 1874 may fairly be considered as having been withdrawn for speculative purposes in anticipation of a change of tariff.

Dealers in spirits were in all probability influenced by the same motives as the distillers, and this quantity may therefore be increased in proportion to the quantity held in hand by them; and we shall thus arrive at an estimate of the extent to which the revenue of the past year from this source was enhanced at the expense of the fiscal year now current.

The total quantity thus arrived at is 556,478 proof gallons, which at 63 cents per gallon comes to $329,595; but if reckoned at the rate of duty now collected, it comes to $417,358.

Deducting the quantity above estimated from the whole quantity entered for consumption, we have 4,923,331 proof gallons as the estimated actual consumption of 1873–74. This is about eight per cent. in excess of the average quantity taken during the two preceding years, and that average was somewhat more than seven per cent. in excess of the quantity taken in 1870–71.

It will be seen, on reference to column No. 5 of the above statement, that the quantity of spirits used in bonded manufactures, chiefly in the manufacture of vinegar, has steadily increased from 187,938 proof gallons in 1870–71, to 203,466 gallons in 1871–72, 262,540 gallons in 1872–73, and 281,090 gallons in 1873–74; while the quantity exported has decreased from 271,333 proof gallons in 1870–71, and 431,673 gallons in 1871–72, to 197,676 gallons in 1873–74.

Malt and Malt Liquor.

The following statement shows the transactions in malt during the year ended 30th June 1874, and three preceding years.

—	1. In Warehouse at Commencement.	2. Manufactured during the Year.	3. Taken for Consumption.	4. Exported.	5. Otherwise accounted for.	6. In Warehouse at end of Period.	7. Duty accrued.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	dols.
1871 -	10,864,430	33,206,876	27,671,497	6,524,850	92,441	9,782,518	276,715
1872 -	9,782,518	42,479,199	29,981,647	8,765,786	132,845	13,381,439	299,816
1873 -	13,381,439	44,133,995	33,955,694	10,193,631	504,068	12,862,041	339,557
1874 -	12,862,041	31,504,005	34,369,016	6,233,367	113,308	4,650,355	343,690

It is thus shown that the quantity of malt taken for consumption has been steadily on the increase since 1871. The quantity exported, which rose from six and a half millions of pounds in 1871 to over 10 millions in 1873, fell during the past year to 6,233,367. It is known to the Department that the early closing of many of the malt-houses last spring was due to the short supply of barley during the closing months of the malting season, and that several of the large maltsters were compelled to import barley from Europe, to enable them to meet the requirements of their trade. This short supply was not so much the result of a short crop as of an active demand for exportation, the foreign buyer outbidding the Canadian maltster. This has resulted not

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only in reduced exports, but the quantity in warehouse on the 30th June 1874 was so far reduced that it amounted to only 4,650,355 pounds, as against 12,862,041 pounds in 1873, and 13,381,439 in 1872.

Of the quantity entered for consumption during the last fiscal year, 28,685,003 pounds were used in the manufacture of malt liquor, and 3,632,093 pounds in the production of spirits.

Of the whole revenue collected from malt, $10,246 was refunded to brewers, who used syrup or sugar in combination with malt, and who, under a strict interpretation of the law, would therefore be liable to pay a duty of three and a quarter cents per gallon on the beer produced, in addition to the malt duty. From this liability they have been relieved by a general Order in Council. The sum of $3,125 has also been refunded, under section 109 of 31 Vict. cap. 8, to brewers who have exported malt liquor. Deducting these two amounts from the total collected, we have a net revenue from malt and malt liquor, exclusive of license fees, of $366,963.

The quantity of beer and porter made during the year was 10,771,519 gallons, as against 11,060,521 gallons produced during the previous year 1872–73. Of this, 536,000 gallons were brewed from sugar, or syrup, and malt combined; and the duty of three and a quarter cents per gallon gave a revenue of $17,420, which is included in the total revenue above stated.

The exports of malt liquor in 1873–74 amounted to 104,000 gallons, as against 85,361 gallons exported during the previous year; so that 10,667,519 gallons were held for consumption in Canada, as against 10,975,160 gollons in 1872–73, showing a reduction of 307,641 gallons.

It may be stated here that the use of "glucose" for the production of malt liquors, in combination with malt, is largely on the increase. This article is a preparation of corn starch, converted into a species of sugar by the addition of sulphuric acid.

Tobacco.

The following statement shows the transactions in tobacco (stated in lbs.) during the four years ending with 1873–4.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
Year ended 30th June.	In Warehouse 1st July.	Manufactured during the Year.	Taken for Consumption.	Exported.	Otherwise accounted for.	In Warehouse 30th June.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1870–71 -	2,069,075	8,089,792	6,427,839	682,434	—	3,048,594
1871–72 -	3,048,594	7,470,393	7,863,582	701,763	—	1,953,642
1872–73 -	1,953,642	6,451,119	6,264,208	640,458	9,548	1,490,547
1873–74 -	1,490,547	8,805,275	8,494,193	483,336	12,989	1,305,304

To the above quantities are to be added the quantity of leaf tobacco taken for consumption in a raw state during the same years, which will give the following additional columns.

	8.		9.	10.
	Raw Leaf taken for Consumption.		Total Tobacco taken for Consumption.	Duty collected thereon.
	Canadian.	Foreign.		
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	dols.
1870-71 -	45,626	323,145	6,796,610	1,035,795
1871-72 -	52,486	260,031	8,176,099	1,252,487
1872-73 -	50,408	325,223	6,489,839	1,013,557
1873-74 -	113,797	277,634	8,885,624	1,401,271

It is shown by columns two and four of the above table that the production of tobacco has closely approximated to the demand for consumption, the quantity in warehouse at the end of the year being less than the quantity in warehouse at the beginning of the year by only 185,243 lbs. But the quantity produced was in excess of the previous year's production by 2,229,985 lbs. It is not likely that this excess is wholly due to the increased demand of the consumers. Probably the holders of tobacco in bond were influenced by the same *instinct* as to the possible increase in the tariff as the holders of spirits, and that the revenue from tobacco for the now current year has been to some extent anticipated. The average consumption for the two preceding years (1871–72 and 1872–73), as stated in column 9 above, was, 7,332,969 lbs., and the average of the three years (1871–72 and 73) was 7,154,182 lbs. The quantity taken in 1873–4 was $1,552,655 in excess of the largest of these, and may therefore be considered as an exceptional increase due to the anticipated rise in the tariff. The average annual increase during five preceding years appears to have been about 418,000 lbs. per annum; and accepting this as the probable normal rate of increase we find that the exceptional increase in the past year was 1,134,655 lbs., which at 15 cts. per pound gives $170,198 as the amount by which the revenue of that year was enhanced at the cost of the revenue for 1874–75. Reckoned at the rate of duty now collected (20 cts.), it comes to $226,931, which represents the loss to the revenue of the current fiscal year.

To the report which I had the honour to submit, with the statistical statements for 1871–72, I appended a statement (B) showing the quantity of imported and home manufactured cigars and tobacco entered for consumption during a series of four years. This statement was intended to show the effect which the changes in the tariff had had on this branch of trade. As there have been further changes in the tariff, I now append an extension of the statement referred to (B), which now embraces a comparison for

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six years ended on 30th June 1874, the result of each year being compared with 1869. It is not probable that the more recent changes had a very great effect on the trade of 1874, still it is quite perceptible.

From this statement it appears that the consumption of imported cigars in 1873–4 was, as to quantity, nearly 301 per cent. in excess of that of 1869, while the consumption of Canadian cigars increased by 100 per cent. It will, however, be observed that on the previous year the consumption of the imported article was 357 per cent. in excess of 1869, while the consumption of Canadian cigars had in that year increased only 57¾ per cent.; so that, as compared with 1872–3, there was a very decided decline in the consumption of imported cigars and a corresponding increase in the consumption of those manufactured in Canada.

The revenue from imported cigars in 1873–74 had increased over 1869 by 439¼ per cent., and the revenue from those of Canadian manufacture had increased by 221 per cent.

The consumption of imported manufactured tobacco in 1873–4 was in excess of the consumption of 1869 by 9·15 per cent., and of the consumption in 1872–73 by 176⅓ per cent. This, however, was due to the exceptional tariff in the Province of Manitoba, where the Customs duty prior to 1st July was only nominal. This was largely availed of by dealers, who exported large quantities of Canadian manufactured tobacco to the United States, which, together with other tobacco of foreign production, was imported into Manitoba, and then entered for consumption under the exceptional tariff referred to. Of the tobacco so entered a considerable portion has since been brought back to Montreal and other parts of the Dominion, the holders claiming that they had satisfied all claims of the Dominion tariff. Large profits were probably made on these transactions, for the cost of transit both ways absorbed only a small portion of the duty that was evaded.

It will be seen that, notwithstanding the large increase in the quality of imported tobacco, the revenue derived from it, as compared with the revenue of 1869, shows a decline of 26½ per cent.

The consumption of home manufactured tobacco in 1873–74 shows an increase of 57 per cent. over that of 1869, while the revenue derived from it shows an increase of 154¾ per cent. The increase over the previous year was 29¼ per cent., but this was, without doubt, exceptional.

The total consumption of imported and home manufactured cigars in 1873–4 is very nearly 200 per cent. in excess of that of 1869. The revenue has increased 353½ per cent. The total consumption of manufactured tobacco is very nearly 53 per cent., and the revenue therefrom has increased 130¾ per cent.

Petroleum.

The following table shows the excise transactions, with reference to this article, during a period of four years :—

—	In Warehouse at Commencement.	Manufactured.	Taken for Consumption.	Exported.	Allowed for Waste.	Lighthouses free.	In Warehouse at end of Period.	Duty accrued, including Inspection Fees.
	gals.	gals.	gals.	gals.	gals.	gals.	gals.	dols.
1870-71 -	565,281	10,755,791	4,445,709	5,531,780	158,514	20,015	1,165,054	247,361
1871-72 -	1,165,054	12,823,991	4,398,315	8,076,885	392,976	77,238	543,631	233,996
1872-73 -	543,631	14,602,087	4,516,490	9,597,525	206,363	88,543	736,797	237,776
1873-74 -	736,797	6,752,282	5,202,175	1,065,787	248,714	69,777	902,626	274,439

By the above statement it appears that the quantity refined in 1873–4 was less by 7,849,805 gallons than was refined in the previous year, while the quantity exported was less by 8,521,739 gallons. These figures show a serious decline in this branch of industry, resulting, probably, from over production in previous years both in Canada and in the United States.

The entries for consumption show an increase in 1873–74 of 685,685 gallons, or about 15 per cent. over the previous year; and of 748,771 gallons, or 16½ per cent. over the average consumption of the four previous years. The revenue increased nearly 15½ per cent. over 1872–73, and 14½ per cent. over the average of the three preceding years.

Manufactures in Bond.

The revenue derived from duties levied on goods manufactured in bond shows a steady increase from year to year :—

	$
In 1870–71, it was - -	20,288
1871–72 „ - - -	24,840
1872–73 „ - - -	33,329
1873–74 „ - - -	39,480

Public Works.—Canals.

The revenue collected from public works by this department in 1873–74 was $672,119, as against $636,797 in the previous year, being an increase of $35,322, or 5½ per cent.

Of this increase the greater portion, $31,500, accrued upon the canals, the revenue from which amounted to $491,143, as compared with $459,993 for 1872–73. From the following figures it appears that while the tolls from the Welland Canal increased during the fiscal year nearly 17 per cent. over the previous year, the tolls collected on the St. Lawrence canals remained nearly stationary, and that the aggregate collections on the Ottawa, Rideau, and Chambly canals have very materially declined. This is due to the depression in the sawn lumber trade between the United States, by way of Lake Champlain, and the Ottawa Valley.

The figures are as follows :—

—	1872–73.	1873–74.	Increase.	Decrease.
	dols.	dols.	dols.	dols.
Welland Canal - -	259,461	302,891	43,430	—
St. Lawrence Canal -	98,121	100,741	2,620	—
Chambly Canal - -	34,961	27,130	—	7,831
Ottawa Canals - -	31,728	45,990	14,262	—
Rideau Canal - -	28,126	9,238	—	18,888
Burlington Canals -	6,626	4,523	—	2,103
St. Peter's Canal -	970	630	—	340
Total -	459,993	491,143	—	—

It is proper to explain that the apparent increase on the Ottowa canals is due to the increasing number of through let passes issued to barges going through from Ottowa to Whitehall.

The statistics for the fiscal year, relating to the Welland Canal, indicate a general increase of traffic on that work. But it is now known (January 1875) that the increase has not continued through the season of navigation, which will show a small decrease as compared with the previous season. In so far, however, as relates to the business of the fiscal year, the following figures will indicate the articles upon which the increase took place :—

—	1872–73.	1873–74.
	dols.	dols.
Tolls upon vessels - - - - -	31,749	34,246
„ passengers - - - - -	516	616
„ produce of forest - - - -	38,402	39,462
„ „ animals - - -	662	532
„ „ agriculture - - -	103,299	119,090
„ „ manufactures and merchandise -	84,782	106,895
Total revenue - - - -	259,410	300,841
Fines and damages - - - - -	51	2,050
Total - - -	259,461	302,891

The decrease in the revenues of the Ottowa, Rideau, and Chambly canals, amounts to $12,457, the whole of which is accounted for by the diminished quantities of sawn lumber sent to market through these works.

With the statistical returns for 1871–72, there was printed a series of statements showing the quantities of the principal articles carried through the Welland Canal and the quantities carried over the United States routes competing with that work. These statements were prepared for the purpose of showing the effect which the reduction of tolls on the Erie Canal, made in 1870, had then produced on the course of trade, for which that route is the competitor. With the same object these statements are now reproduced

and extended to the latest date up to which the necessary information can be obtained. These comparisons now cover a service of six years, in so far as relates to the Canadian works, but I have been unable to obtain the particulars with reference to the competing routes in the United States for the season of 1874. The year preceding the reduction of tolls on the New York canals (1869) is, however, included, and with the business of that year all the comparisons are made, the result of which is given below:—

The comparative increase or decrease in the tonnage of flour, wheat, barley, corn, oats, and rye moved through the Welland and Erie canals, may be stated as follows:—

—	1870.		1871.		1872.		1873.		1874.	
	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.
New York Canals -	—	2·95	44·67	—	29·15	—	35·54	—	—	—
Welland Canal -	18·43	—	32·59	—	23·73	—	7·18	—	23·55	—

The movement of *Heavy Goods*, including iron, salt, coal and iron ore, shows the following general result:—

—	1870.		1871.		1872.		1873.		1874.	
	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.
New York Canals -	15·09	—	1.12	—	18·01	—	21·94	—	—	—
Welland Canal -	—	2·35	5·81	—	—	5·11	25·13	—	44·44	—

Comparing the tonnage of similar articles of vegetable food cleared downwards at Buffalo and Tonawanda, with the quantities cleared eastward at Port Colborne, we have the following result:—

—	1870.		1871.		1872.		1873.		1874.	
	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.
At Buffalo and Tonawanda.	1·45	—	67·62	—	67·95	—	75·95	—	—	—
At Port Colborne -	17·15	—	33·30	—	26·61	—	9·45	—	26·26	—

The quantities of vegetable food passed through the Welland Canal in transit between ports in the United States has decreased,

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as will be seen from the following statement, though the decrease in 1874 is less, as compared with 1869, than in the preceding year. There has, however, been a decided increase in the quantities of heavy goods.

—	1870.		1871.		1872.		1873.		1874.	
	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.
Vegetable goods -	—	0·04	13·94	—	—	6·19	—	29·86	—	14·04
Heavy goods -	1·20	—	5·32	—	—	15·46	13·70	—	23·46	—

It will be seen that there has been a very decided falling off in the quantities of vegetable food sent eastward from Oswego in 1872 and in 1873, as compared with 1869. The decrease in 1872 was 37 per cent., and in 1873, 52·04 per cent.

A statement has been prepared comparing the quantities of vegetable food transported over the canals of the State of New York with the quantities transported over the two principal lines of railway in competition with the canals for the trade between the seaboard and the lakes; from this statement it will be seen that the quantities carried by railway have steadily increased, and more rapidly than by canal, notwithstanding the reduction of the canal tolls by one half. This may be, and doubtless is in some measure, due to the business obtained by the railways at way stations; but it is mainly due to the largely increased share which the railways have managed to obtain of the through business.

On reference to the returns made by the railways to the State authorities, and to the canal statistics submitted to the State Legislature, I find that of the total tonnage of freight carried to tide water by the canals and railways, the State canals carried—

In 1859 - - - -	68·9	per cent.
1869 - - - -	47·0	„
1870 - - - -	38·9	„
1871 - - - -	38·9	„
1872 - - - -	40·1	„
1873 - - - -	34·9	„

The quantities were as follows:—

	Total Tonnage.	Proportion by Canal.
1859 - -	5,485,076 -	·6890
1869 - -	12,453,174 -	- ·4705
1870 - -	15,148,274 -	- ·3895
1871 - -	15,844,152 -	- ·3896
1872 - -	16,631,609 -	- ·4012
1873 - -	18,200,208 -	- ·3497

From the above it will be seen that while in 1869—the year previous to that in which the tolls were reduced on the State canals—the canals carried 47 per cent. of the whole tonnage, this proportion fell to somewhat less than 39 per cent. in 1870, and in 1873 it had fallen to less than 35 per cent. Thus, while there had been a decrease in the proportion of business taken by the canals of 22 per cent. during the 10 years prior to 1870, in which there had been no change in the canal tariff, there was a decrease of 12 per cent. during the four years succeeding the change made in 1870.

From the statement above referred to it appears that, with reference to vegetable food, there was in 1873 an increase in the quantity carried from the lakes to tide water by New York State canals, as compared with the quantity carried in 1869, of 33·97 per cent.; the increase on the Welland Canal was in 1873 only 7·18 per cent., but in 1874 it was 23·55 per cent. In comparison with these figures the increase on the New York Central and Erie Railways was 87·25 per cent.

The quantity of grain trans-shipped at Port Colborne in 1874 and two preceding years is given below. The total number of grain-laden vessels lightened at Port Colborne in 1874 was 207, as against 175 in the previous year. The number entirely unladen without entering the canal was 98, as against 120 in 1873. The quantity of grain lightened was as follows:—

—	1872.	1873.	1874.
	tons.	tons.	tons.
Wheat - - -	9,425	14,327	15,168
Corn - - -	7,405	5,930	7,187
Barley - - -	—	123	—

The quantity of grain discharged from vessels which did not enter the canal was as follows:—

—	1872.	1873.	1874.
	tons.	tons.	tons.
Wheat - - -	21,121	36,930	26,981
Corn - - -	43,163	31,115	32,970

The canal statistics for the season of navigation, 1873, are printed with the accompanying returns. Similar returns have been completed for the season of 1874, which are now in the hands of the printers, but as they cannot be printed in time to include them in this book they will be issued as a supplement thereto.

Comparing the season returns for 1874 with those for 1873 it will be seen that the aggregate revenue has declined, as compared with 1873, by $2,104.05. Of this, the decrease in—

	$
The Welland Canal is - - -	875 43
Chambly „ - - -	149 03
Rideau „ - - -	1,868 45
Ottawa „ - - -	2,663 74
	5,556 65

As against this, there has been an increase in—

The St. Lawrence canals of - -	2,942 88
Burlington Bay Canal of - -	502 18
St. Peter's Canal - - -	7 54
	3,452 60

And the decrease in the whole revenue is therefore $2,104.05, as above stated.

Slides and Booms.

The revenue accrued from these works in 1873–74 is $130,775, as compared with $127,172 in 1872–73. The uncollected balances have increased from $125,961 to $160,446. A large portion of these balances consist of disputed claims againt the mill-owners at the Chaudière for boomage, the payment of which has been from time to time delayed under various pleas.

Hydraulic Rents and Minor Public Works.

The balances now outstanding on these accounts have increased during the year from $174,940 to $188,264. These balances will undoubtedly be greatly reduced upon settlement, as it is evident, from the replies received by the Department to the peremptory demands for payment made in accordance with your instructions, that many of the parties have reasonable claims for a reduction of the amounts charged in the books. There are, however, a large number of claims, payment of which ought to be enforced without further delay.

The amount accrued under the head of rents in 1873–74 is $33,516, as against $33,805 accrued in 1872–73. In addition to this $4,752 has accrued on minor public works, such as harbours, bridges, ferries, &c.; and the sum of $10,000 has been paid in to the credit of this Department on account of the purchase of the old post-office buildings at Montreal.

Culling Timber.

The fees accrued from culling and measuring timber in 1873–4 amounted to $95,912. In the previous year they amounted to $79,766, but the amounts actually collected were $92,772 and $81,038 respectively. The cost of the supervisor's office and its

branch in Montreal including the fees paid to the cullers, was $83,442, being $5,442 40 in excess of the estimate. This excess is entirely due to the largely increased quantity of timber culled beyond what was foreseen at the time the estimates were prepared.

In consequence of the representations made to the department in relation to the culling of timber, among which were arguments in favour of extending the system of culling to all kinds of sawn lumber and to all parts of the Dominion, a circular was prepared asking a series of questions bearing on the subject. This circular was addressed to 433 persons engaged in the trade, from only 16 of whom replies have been received.

Bill Stamps.

The revenue from bill stamps in 1873–4 was $209,233, being an advance of $7,791. This has been about the average yearly rate of increase from this source, and is below the rate that might reasonably have been expected from the great extension that has taken place in the financial transactions of the Dominion as indicated by the bank returns.

Weights and Measures, and Gas.

As stated in my last report, arrangements were made in England for supplying the standards and apparatus necessary for giving effect to the provisions of the Acts 36 Vict., Cap. 47 & Cap. 48. It was expected that the Primary Dominion Standards would be delivered in Ottawa some time in June 1874. If this had been accomplished the Proclamation of the law might have been issued in time to bring it into operation on the 1st January 1875. Unforeseen delays, however, occurred, both as to the making of the standards and their comparison with their imperial prototypes by the Warden of Standards at the Standard Department, Westminster; and it was not until December 1874 that the Dominion standards and models mentioned in the above cited Acts could be deposited in compliance therewith. The Proclamation was then published, and the Inspection laws will, therefore, go into operation on the 1st July 1875.

The transactions of this department in relation to this branch of its duties have so far related only to the purchase of the standards and apparatus. There will be no returns of revenue on account of this service until after the 1st of July 1875, and as the business up to that time will be merely of a technical character it is deemed expedient to submit a special report in relation thereto, which will contain an account of the progress made down to the 31st December 1874.

Inspection of Staple Articles.

By the Act of last session, 37 Vict., Cap. 45, the Act passed in the previous session (36 Vict., Cap. 39) was repealed, and some

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important changes in the law were made; among others the inspection of butter was made optional, and the clauses respecting the inspection of petroleum were expunged. As it had been foreseen that important alterations would be made in the law, it had to some extent remained inoperative, and inspectors under it were appointed at only the more important places.

Since the general inspection Act of 1874 was passed, this department has given effect to its provisions. Boards of examiners have been appointed, and inspectors selected from such candidates as were certified efficient have been appointed, and under them the appointment of deputies has been approved.

Prior to the close of the fiscal year, to which this report relates, no complete returns had been received as to the quantities of articles inspected. These returns are now coming in, and, if the inspection is generally carried out, will form an important addition to the statistical returns of the Department.

The Excise Outside Service.

The greatly enhanced excise duties now levied on the principal articles subject to excise has increased the responsibilities of the department in relation to their charge and collection. The duty imposed on spirits now greatly exceeds the value of the untaxed article, and the temptation to evade the revenue is proportionally increased; and although the duty on tobacco is not so great in proportion to its value ex-duty as the duty on spirits, still the duty in most cases exceeds the untaxed value of the article on which it is imposed.

The equitable charge of these important taxes largely depends on the intelligence and technical knowledge of the collectors and their surbordinate officers; and it is therefore obviously necessary for the protection of the manufacturers, as well as for the safety of the revenue, that these officers should be thoroughly competent, not only as mere clerks, but as regards such technical knowledge as is required of them.

Under the regulations, approved by the Order in Council of September 24, 1866, the examination of candidates for appointments in the Inland Revenue Outside Service is provided for, as is also the examination of such officers as had been appointed prior to that date. It is there in specifically stated that those already in the service, who, after not less than six months' notice, failed to pass a satisfactory examination, should be superseded. It was, however, evident that it would hardly be possible, all at once, to find men who possessed all the requisite technical knowledge, and appointments were therefore made subject to the condition that the appointees should, when required, submit themselves to, and pass in a satisfactory manner, the prescribed examination. Persons so appointed were thus afforded an opportunity for acquiring a knowledge of their duties, and they entered the service upon the express understanding that after a sufficient time had elapsed the examinations would take place.

Under the regulations above referred to examining boards were formed at the principal places, and examinations held as follows:—

At Ottawa - - - -	Oct. 25th, 1866
do. - - - -	Nov. 27th, 1866
do. - - - -	Feb. 20th, 1867
At Toronto - - - -	Nov. 24th, 1866
do. - - - -	May 14th, 1867
do. - - - -	Feb. 27th, 1868
do. - - - -	Sept. 15th, 1869
At London - - - -	April 23rd, 1867
do. - - - -	Nov. 2nd, 1869
At Kingston - - - -	May 6th, 1867
do. - - - -	Oct. 26th, 1869
At Montreal - - - -	Feb. 22nd, 1869
do. - - - -	Oct. 12th, 1869
do. - - - -	Dec. 8th, 1869
At Quebec - - - -	Dec. 14th, 1869

During these examinations 115 candidates, either in the service or desirous of entering it, were examined, and of these—

Fifteen obtained first-class certificates.
Forty-six obtained second-class certificates.
Thirty-six obtained third-class certificates, and
Eighteen failed to obtain any place.

Subsequent to 1869 the examinations were, for reasons which it is not now necessary to state, discontinued until 1873, when, with the approval of the then Minister of Inland Revenue, they were resumed, but were only opened to such candidates as were already in the service.

Great care has been exercised in the preparation of the examination papers, with a view to testing the practical knowledge of the candidates, and the extent to which they had availed themselves of the opportunities afforded them for qualifying themselves for their duties.

The result of these last examinations was that out of 70 who presented themselves—

Six obtained first-class certificates,
Fourteen obtained second-class certificates,
Twenty-nine obtained third-class certificates, and
Twenty-one failed to obtain any position.

Of the officers above enumerated three have been transferred to the inside service, and 41 have been removed from the outside service by deaths, resignations, superannuation, or otherwise; and there are some who, although examined, were not appointed; so that we have now on the pay rolls of the outside service—

Eighteen first-class officers,
Forty-two second-class officers,
Fifty-two third-class officers, and
Twenty-seven who failed in their examinations.

There are also *21* officers on our pay rolls, who have had an opportunity for passing an examination, but who have refused

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to present themselves, and *12* who have not yet been required to do so, making an aggregate of 172 excise officers now on our pay rolls.

As a full account of these examinations, with schedules of the results, has been prepared, and, together with the examination papers, will be submitted as a supplement to this report, I shall in this place only observe further that the examinations have been entirely successful in showing the relative fitness of the parties examined; and that, with no greater exception than is sufficient to establish the rule, the results may be accepted as an equitable guide to the manner in which the members of the outside excise service of this department should be disposed of.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. BRUNEL,
Commissioner.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 2.

Governor SIR STEPHEN HILL, K.C.M.G., C.B.

Government House, Newfoundland.

MY LORD, December 16, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the "Blue Book" of Newfoundland for the year 1874.

2. The letter from Mr. Secretary Shea, a copy of which accompanies this Despatch, will serve to explain many of the more important matters of statistics, and will enable your Lordship to form a reliable opinion on the present state of this Colony.

3. Being conversant with the many details set forth in the Blue Book from information obtained, as well as from my own observation these several years, I am enabled to assure your Lordship that the affairs of this Colony are in a sound condition, and that the future prospects of the country are such as to justify reasonable hopes of advancement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STEPHEN I. HILL.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

From the COLONIAL SECRETARY to HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

Secretary's Office,
December 13, 1875.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

IN enclosing to your Excellency the Blue Book of 1874 I have the honour, at your Excellency's desire, to accompany it with some observations on the more important portions of its contents relating to the industrial and social condition of the Colony.

2. The trade of Newfoundland for the year 1874, as indicated by the statistical returns, was the largest on record.

Although the fisheries of the year before were of rather more than average productiveness, the value of its exports fell short of that of the exports of 1874 by nearly one million dollars. The revenue of the latter was also considerably in excess of that of most former years, showing an increase on even that of 1873 of about 47,000 dollars.

The business of our Savings Bank shared in the general advancement, the accounts of this institution exhibiting at the close of the year 2,279 depositors to the amount of 1,045,274 dollars against 2,100 depositors of 968,931 dollars in 1873.

3. Much healthful vigour was imparted to the commerce of the island by the degree of prosperity here evidenced, and the Legislature having granted an increase of bounty of one dollar per ton on native shipbuilding a new impetus was promptly applied to this favourite pursuit of our operative population. The number of vessels built here in 1873 was 85 of 3,031 tons, while in 1874 our building yards turned out 111 vessels measuring 4,374 tonnage.

4. Mining industry, which is yet in its infancy with us, was less prosperous in the last year than in 1873; but the prospect of operations in the new copper mine at Betts Cove near Tilt Cove justifies the hope that this will speedily contribute an important addition to the productive wealth of the island.

5. The condition of the trading and labouring classes generally gave satisfactory assurance of their comparative independence and contentment, which, however, were not wholly due to the success of one year's enterprises; the good fortune of the four previous years having materially aided to produce these results.

6. I am unable to refer to any decided progress made in agricultural pursuits, to which as in most fishing countries the people are slow to devote the requisite attention. Whilever the fisheries afford them even partial employment, yet whenever even a moderate expenditure is made for agricultural purposes the returns more than compensate, and they show the adaptability of our soil for the production of many of the necessaries of life.

7. With respect to the subject of popular education, the last year presents no indications of appreciable improvement, this is

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understood to be referable in part to the avocations of the majority of the people which engage so large a proportion of their time at sea, and partly to the insufficiency of the salaries as remuneration for competent teachers. Other causes more or less speculative have been assigned for the state of things in this respect, one of these, affecting the Protestant denominations, was believed to be the system of common or mixed schools, although the correctness of this opinion has been a subject of heated contention for many years. The separatists, however, have at length seen their views carried into effect. The Legislature having by special enactment affirmed the principle of subdivision of the educational funds, on the basis of population and separate schools for members of the Church of England, Wesleyan, and other denominations, this principle having for many years obtained as regarded Roman Catholic schools. I may remark that there is even yet a wide diversity of opinion as to the wisdom of this measure, but the preponderance must be assumed to be in favour of a change which has received legislative assent.

The new school system obviously contemplates an increase of working means. This becomes indispensable, from the transfer to distinct religious bodies of the school property in the several districts which had been hitherto held in common, as well as from the demand for new school buildings and the necessary repairs of those existing.

8. A census of the population was taken in the autumn of last year, an interval of five years having elapsed since the previous enumeration.

The present population of Newfoundland and Labrador thus shown is 161,486, giving an increase of about 15,000 on the last census.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. D. SHEA, C.S.

His Excellency Sir Stephen J. Hill, K.C.M.G., C.B.,
Governor of Newfoundland.

JAMAICA.

No. 3.

Governor Sir W. GREY, K.C.S.I., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, King's House, September 7, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Colony of Jamaica for the year 1873–74, together with my report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GREY.

The Right Hon. The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Legislation.

Twenty-two laws were passed during the year, of which the following may be noticed:—

Law 2 of 1874.—"A Law to amend the Incumbered Estates "Law, 1873."

This law was deemed necessary in order to preserve from the operation of Law 17 of 1873 the jurisdiction and powers of the Commissioners appointed under the Imperial West Indian Encumbered Estates Acts.

Law 7 of 1874.—"A law to regulate the Salary of Officers "administering the Government of Jamaica, and the furnishing of "Government House."

This law was framed on the model of an Act passed in the Colony of Queensland, and is meant, as its title explains, to regulate the salary of officers administering the government of this Colony temporarily during the absence or incapacity of the Governor, or during any vacancy in the office of Governor, and to lay down rules in regard to the occupation of Government House, and the use of the furniture supplied at the public expense.

Law 8 of 1874.—"A Law in aid of Law 6 of 1867."

This law was introduced in accordance with the recommendation of a Select Committee of the Legislative Council, to whom had been referred a petition to the Council from Dr. Bowerbank, a leading medical practitioner in Kingston, in reference to the sanitary state of the Island.

In this petition Dr. Bowerbank stated that for many years he had been "painfully impressed with the great want of legislative "action on most important matters affecting the public health;" and with respect to Kingston in particular, he expresssed the opinion that for the last three or four years "the sanitary status is "retrograding rather than advancing."

Dr. Bowerbank referred to the want of legislation for preventing

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the spread of contagious diseases, and for the isolation of persons affected with such diseases; and he drew special attention to the English Sanitary Act of 1866, expressing his belief that regulations similar to those contained in the 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 29th, 38th, and 39th clauses of that Act strictly enforced would greatly tend to prevent the spread of infection.

The Select Committee to whom this petition was referred expressed an opinion that Law 6 of 1867 might with advantage be amended by the enactment of clauses 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 38, and 39 of the Imperial Statute 29 & 30 Vict. c. 90. "With a law "(they observed) embodying the sections above pointed out, the "Committee are of opinion that there will be as ample legislative "provision as is constitutionally practicable for the protection "of the public health, &c. In the opinion of the Committee "isolation will be by this law sufficiently provided for as far "as it can be without violating public liberty." A Bill was accordingly introduced for this purpose and was passed into law.

Law 9 of 1874.—"A Law to make Provision for the Erection "and Regulation of Markets throughout the Island."

The general objects of this law are the provision of commodious and wholesome market places in suitable situations throughout the country parts of the Island, and to make the law uniform and clear in regard to the financial and internal arrangements of markets, as well as in regard to the imposition and levying of fees, in which last respect some difficulty had been found under the old law.

The 10th section of the law gives power to the Governor to advance money from the Treasury on the application of the municipal board of any parish for the erection or improvement of market buildings; and the 12th section of the law provides for the manner of the repayment of such advances.

This law does not apply to the parish of Kingston, the regulations of the markets of that town being provided for by a separate enactment.

Law 10 of 1874.—"A Law to make further Provision in aid of "the Kingston Markets Law, 1869, and to amend Law 15 of "1872."

Law 11 of 1874.—"A Law relating to unseaworthy Vessels, and "to provide for Surveys of Vessels in certain Cases."

This is a law to provide for the survey of ships suspected of being unseaworthy. It is founded upon the 12th and 13th sections of the Imperial Merchant Shipping Act, 1873.

Law 14 of 1874.—"A Law to compel the Attendance of Jurors "and Witnesses at Coroners' Inquests" was passed to meet a difficulty brought to notice by a district court judge, who reported in his capacity of coroner that in his opinion no power was vested in coroners to compel the attendance of either jurors or witnesses. The law is based on the Imperial Act 7 & 8 Vict. c. 92. s. 17.

Law 15 of 1874.—"A Law to amend the Prisons' Consolidation "Act, 1856."

This law was introduced in consequence of its being found necessary to legalise the reception into the General Penitentiary at Kingston of all naval prisoners whether convicted by court-martial or otherwise, and whether sentenced to hard labour or to simple imprisonment.

Law 18 of 1874.—"A Law to set apart a Portion of the "Kingston Parade as a Public Garden, and to provide for the "Regulation and Management of the same."

This law vests in the Colonial Secretary, upon trust for the purposes of a public garden, that portion of the Kingston Parade which was enclosed and laid out by Sir John Grant as a place of recreation for the inhabitants of the town; and provides for its proper regulation and management.

Law 21 of 1874.—"A Law for the Establishment, Regulation, "and Management of the Kingston Cemetery."

The land referred to in this law as May Pen was bought so far back as 1851 with a sum of money voted by the then Legislature for the purpose of providing a burial ground for the parish of Kingston. A sum of 1,000*l.* having been placed on the Kingston parochial estimates for 1869 for the purpose of enclosing a new cemetery, the Government refused to sanction the expenditure on the ground that no sum from general revenue could be appropriated for the establishment of a burial place for one communion only; and it was suggested that a general cemetery might be established. The municipal board of Kingston, and for the most part the ministers of the several denominations in Kingston, agreed in the expediency of establishing such a cemetery, and it was shown that the burial grounds belonging to the Church of England and the Baptists were very nearly full, and that more space was urgently needed. The custos of Kingston reported in 1869 that there were 31 burial places in Kingston and its immediate vicinity, and that the interments for the year 1868–69 had numbered 1,126.

May Pen was considered by the custos of Kingston to be the best site available for a general cemetery, situated as it is to leeward of the city in the most thinly populated district of the parish, and accessible by a public road.

It was thought advisable that legislation should be resorted to both to give power for closing the existing burial places within the city of Kingston, and also to settle a doubt which had been raised as to the legal and equitable estate in May Pen under a deed of conveyance which had been made many years ago to the Bishop of Jamaica and others upon trusts which appeared to be opposed to the intention of the Legislature when it granted the money for the purchase of the land.

That intention it was evident would be effectually fulfilled, while it was considered that no public or private rights would be prejudiced by passing a law which should vest the legal estate in May Pen in the municipal board of Kingston for the use and benefit of the people of Kingston. Due provision is made in the law for the proper maintenance of the cemetery, and for assigning

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to the various religious denominations certain portions of the land, also for the discontinuance of burials in existing burial grounds by Order in Council, and for the keeping in order of any disused burial ground.

Law 22 of 1874.—"A Law to consolidate the District Court "Laws."

This law contains some few amendments and alterations, but for the most part it is a consolidation and re-arrangement of previous laws. The laws consolidated were, 12 in number, passed between the years 1867 and 1873 inclusive. This work was one of the last on which the late Attorney General, Mr. Schalch, was engaged, in concert with Mr. Justice Ker.

Finance.

The accounts of the year 1873-74, excluding the immigration accounts which are separately treated, show a surplus of revenue over expenditure of 25,227*l.* Of this amount 15,819*l.* is the surplus over expenditure of revenue specially appropriated to particular service, such as parochial roads, relief of the poor, &c. The remainder 9,408*l.*, together with an addition of 1,971*l.* from the accumulated surplus of preceding years, has been invested in sinking funds towards the redemption of debt.

The following figures give the actual results of the year 1873-74:—

	£
General revenues - - - -	430,391
General expenditure - - -	420,983
Excess of general receipts over general expenditure - - - - -	9,408
Appropriated revenue - - -	75,450
Appropriated expenditure - - -	59,631
	15,819
Total surplus - -	25,227

This surplus is shown after charging as expenditure 25,494*l.* expended on special services for roads and works, which expenditure it had been intended in framing the estimates at the outset of the year to defray from past balances, but which, owing to the fruitfulness of the revenue in excess of the estimate, has been met from the receipts within the year.

The immigration fund account is not included in the above figures; the revenue and expenditure for the year were as follow:—

	£
Revenue - - - - -	35,956
Expenditure - - - -	56,647

The difference 20,691*l.* between the immigration revenue and expenditure was defrayed from a loan of 48,000*l.* raised during the year for that purpose, as well as to repay advances amounting to some 27,000*l.* that had been made from the public chest, and which were due at the commencement of the year by the immigration fund.

The following table shows the whole of the Treasury receipts in the year 1873–74, both of revenue and of other moneys, as compared with those of the year immediately preceding :—

COMPARATIVE YEARLY STATEMENT OF REVENUE.

	1873–4.	1872–3.	More.	Less.
	£	£	£	£
Import duties	251,401	241,821	9,580	—
Tonnage, light dues	3,182	2,655	527	—
Excise, rum duties	95,073	90,555	4,518	—
Spirit licenses	16,800	15,485	1,315	—
Trade licenses, old	550	630	—	80
„ „ new	3,848	3,913	—	65
Land tax, old, main roads	8,794	8,495	299	—
„ new, property tax	4,974	4,630	344	—
Poor rate, house tax	24,716	23,723	993	—
Parochial road tax, horse kind and wheels	25,336	24,707	629	—
Tax on stock, &c. (arrears)	16	20	—	4
Dog tax	142	171	—	29
Post office	14,743	13,867	876	—
Miscellaneous	39,053	33,550	5,503	—
Stamps	15,334	15,171	163	—
	503,962	479,393	24,747	178
Interest on securities for sinking funds	1,881	1,561	320	—
Total revenue	505,843	480,954	25,067	178
Immigration Revenues.				
Export duty	19,619	17,327	2,292	—
Capitation tax	10,322	10,467	—	145
Interest on securities for sinking funds	122	133	—	11
Other interest	893	885	8	—
Contribution from general revnue	5,000	5,000	—	—
	541,799	514,766	27,367	334
Receipts on debt account, immigration loan	48,000	1,600	46,400	—
Excess of deposits in Treasury over withdrawals	27,716	9,499	18,217	—
Grand total receipts	617,515	526,865	90,650	—

The continued increase in the import duties* is a very satisfactory evidence of the well doing of the people, and the increase in the

* The import duty collections for the four past years have been as follows :—

	£		£
1870–71	193,226	1872–73	241,821
1871–72	224,077	1873–74	251,401

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export duties after a falling off under that head in the preceding year is also gratifying. It will be observed that the total revenues of the past year exceeded those of the year 1872–73 by 27,034*l.*

Below is a table showing the Treasury disbursements of the year under report, both on account of current expenditure and on all other accounts, contrasted with those of the preceding year.

COMPARATIVE YEARLY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE.

	1873–74.	1872–73.	Increase.	Decrease.
Establishments.				
Civil	30,349	29,289	1,060	—
Judicial	22,044	18,571	3,473	—
District courts	12,839	13,330	—	491
Revenue	31,681	31,156	525	—
Botanic gardens	4,984	2,940	2,044	—
Post office	15,852	14,951	901	—
Ecclesiastical	16,994	17,717	—	723
Medical	35,959	33,328	2,631	—
Constabulary	45,321	48,188	—	2,867
Prisons, penitentiary, and reformatory	28,127	26,726	1,401	—
Education	19,903	19,453	450	—
Miscellaneous	9,128	10,949	—	1,821
Colonization of immigrants	5,000	5,000	—	—
Military	5,228	4,210	1,018	—
Roads and bridges	64,634	49,302	15,332	—
Buildings	34,443	39,683	—	5,240
Land expenses	1,297	1,472	—	175
Pensions	14,423	13,561	862	—
Lighthouses	1,351	1,171	180	—
Harbour masters	72	75	—	3
Parochial expenditure	35,257	29,026	6,231	—
Steam communication with New York	4,875	3,750	1,125	—
Interest, &c., debt	40,835	40,313	542	—
	480,616	454,161	37,775	11,320
Disbursements other than Expenditure.				
Sinking funds	10,377	10,236	141	—
Redemption of debt from current revenue	—	6,426	—	6,426
Redemption of debt from surplus revenue	6,000	200	5,800	—
Total disbursements exclusive of charges on immigration fund accounts	496,993	471,823	25,170	—
Immigration	56,647	69,261	—	12,614
Grand total disbursements	553,640	541,084	12,556	—

Pensions.

During this year one pension of 13*l.* was granted in compensation for the abolition of office. The pension list was relieved by death to the extent of 1,449*l.*, drawn by 10 different pensioners.

Debt.

No loan chargeable to the general revenues of the Colony was raised in the year 1873–74.

But a third instalment of 30,000*l.* of the immigration loan as well as 18,000*l.* of the fourth instalment was raised. A further sum of 19,000*l.* was raised by the Rio Cobre Canal Commissioners to meet expenses connected with those works.

During the year 4,800*l.* of debt, as the debentures became payable, was paid off from surplus revenues, and 1,200*l.* was paid off from the accumulated surplus of appropriated revenues.

A sum of 11,379*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* has been invested in sinking funds for the eventual redemption of debt, and an investment of 862*l.* was made from the immigration revenues in sinking funds for the immigration loans.

The public debt directly secured on the general revenues stood as follows on the 30th September in each of the last eight years, after making allowance in each year for the sinking funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1867 -	718,952	18	10	1871 -	591,656	5	6
1868 -	706,964	18	0	1872 -	571,542	1	3
1869 -	686,830	9	2	1873 -	554,492	18	11
1870 -	609,505	11	3	1874 -	539,108	8	2

The interest paid on debt amounted to 34,625*l.* and was apportioned as follows:—

	£
On deposits in chest - -	10,749
Loans under Imperial guarantee -	12,896
Island loans - - -	10,980
	34,625

The debt secured on the revenues of the immigration fund stood as follows at the corresponding periods:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1867 -	69,138	0	3	1871 -	84,169	7	0
1868 -	64,175	14	3	1872 -	80,564	16	7
1869 -	59,213	8	3	1873 -	78,283	4	9
1870 -	56,138	0	0	1874 -	126,428	5	6

In this last year, as has been stated, 48,000*l.* were raised.

The interest paid on immigration loans during the year amounted to 5,031*l.*, viz.:—

	£
On guaranteed loans - - -	1,526
Immigration further loan - -	3,505
	5,031

Legislative Council.

Mr. Charles Royes, an unofficial member, tendered the resignation of his seat on the 21st of January 1874 on the ground that

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he could not afford the time requisite to attend sessions protracted over many months. His resignation was accepted.

Land.

Lands to the extent of 4,651 acres have been taken possession of by Government from squatters under Law 37 of 1867; and 3,098 acres of land in possession of Government have been leased to various persons during the year.

Notifications, under Law 5 of 1871, have been published for the absolute forfeiture of 33,184 acres on which land tax and quit rents have remained unpaid for 10 years and upwards, and lands amounting to 55,560 acres, included in previous notifications, have been declared forfeited to the Crown.

Public Works.—Roads and Bridges.

The expenditure during the year on main roads and bridges amounted to 39,701*l.*, as shown below:—

	£
Maintenance and repairs - - -	26,704
New works - - - -	9,825
Parochial services - - -	3,172
	39,701

The rate of expenditure upon the maintenance and repairs of main roads has been 37*l.* per mile: last year it was 33*l.*, and, in the previous year, 1871–72, 31*l.* per mile. The explanation of this increase is found mainly in the advanced price of labour, estimated by the director of roads to average about 10 per cent. throughout the Island, and in the special expenditure rendered necessary on some important roads, of which parts were carried away or very severely injured by extraordinary floods.

Bridges.

The Dry River or Rio Minho Bridge was completed and opened for traffic on the 1st of August, having been commenced in 1871, the various difficulties that from time to time hindered its more speedy erection have been described in previous reports. When the construction of this bridge was undertaken its cost was estimated at 16,207*l.* The total actual cost has been 16,901*l.*

There still remains to be constructed, however, the pilasters on the top of each pier to cover the ends of the girders, but this is a slight matter of detail in no way impeding or affecting the use of the bridge by the public.

The following bridges have also been completed during the year:—

Over the river at Hopewell on the main road from Kingston to Newcastle.

Over Little River on the main road from Montego Bay to Lucea.

On the main road from Lucea to Green Island.

Over the Ferris River in Westmoreland.

The old bridge at the rock near Falmouth, which carried the main road over the river there, has been taken down (being unsafe), and the ironwork of a new bridge is being erected.

The ironwork of a bridge over the Middle River at Annotto Bay has been imported, and also that for a bridge over the Rio Cobre, connecting Linstead with Lloyd's estate in Saint John's.

Buildings.

The total expenditure on public buildings and miscellaneous services has been 33,481*l.*

Prisons, Reformatories, &c.

A new roof has been erected for the quarters of the superintendent of the Penitentiary; a new hospital at Saint Mary's Prison completed; the constabulary station at May Pen completed, and a new range of lock-ups erected there.

Public Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, &c.

Several additions and improvements have been completed at the Public Hospital, Kingston.

The new range of rooms for separate occupation at the lunatic asylum has been nearly completed.

A new enclosure wall at the lock hospital has been erected, and several improvements at the leper's home have been carried out.

Parochial Hospitals.

The hospitals at Falmouth and Lucea have been handed over for occupation, and the necessary furniture supplied.

A new hospital on a design approved by the Island medical officer has been commenced at Mandeville.

Court Houses.

Court houses at Adelphi, Saint James, York Hill, Hanover, and May Pen, Clarendon, have been repaired and occupied as district courts.

Buoys, Beacons, &c.

Three large buoys to mark the entrance to Port Morant have been placed in position under the directions of the officer in charge of the Admiralty Hydrographic Survey; and three buoys for Falmouth Harbour have been imported.

Kingston and Liguanea Waterworks.

Considerable advance has been made towards the completion of this work. The reservoir for 2,500,000 gallons, the two filter

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beds, and the pure water tank to hold 3,300,000 gallons have all made progress, and on the 30th September last, the reservoir had been about three fourths completed, the filter beds and pure water tank about half completed.

The main pipe laying in Kingston has been completed and tested. The hydrants have been fixed and are available for fire service.

Kingston Gasworks.

A design on a less expensive scale than the original one referred to in last year's report has been obtained, and a contract has been entered into with Messrs. Cutler and Sons, of London, for the preparation of the ironwork, for the sum of 7,538*l.* The services of an experienced engineer have been engaged for the erection of the works.

Kingston Slaughter House.

The ironwork has arrived from England, and the erection of the buildings is being vigorously pushed forward.

Rio Cobre Irrigation Works.

The masonry portion of the dam at the head works having been finished, the work of forming the "flood bank" or bank of earth for the purpose of closing the comparatively narrow course through which the river was left running was begun as early as possible, in the hope of a sufficiently long period of exemption from heavy rains to allow of the work being carried up to a safe height. Unfortunately, however, floods came unexpectedly, a temporary culvert formed of timber gave way and became choked, causing the river to overtop the bank and carry away the whole of it. It then became evident that it would be necessary to erect a more permanent culvert of masonry as an outlet for the ordinary flow of the river, and to construct the flood bank principally of masonry instead of earth. The director of roads has since reported that this work has been successfully completed.

In a comprehensive report upon this irrigation project submitted soon after the close of the year, the director of roads has remarked as follows:—

"I have only to state further that I have full confidence in the success of these works, in an engineering point of view, and also a belief that, if carried out to the full intention, they will not only repay their cost, but will be ultimately very remunerative both to the land holders as well as to the Government, which has guaranteed the debentures."

District Courts.

The business transacted during the last six years is shown in the following summary—

—	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.
Criminal trials - -	1,256	1,712	1,831	2,473	2,679	3,210
Small causes - -	3,133	5,509	7,321	7,396	8,050	7,982
Judgment summons -	—	—	—	—	843	1,397
Equity cases - -	2	10	13	15	13	7
Cases under the Land Law	133	137	35 3	485	241	228
Bankruptcy cases -	9	147	42	5	8	6
Probate cases -	35	43	42	31	29	23
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount claimed -	22,919	29,070	35,958	39,896	41,148	50,325
Judgment obtained -	11,386	14,919	18,580	15,770	19,873	25,773
Costs - - -	2,109	2,774	3,350	3,493	3,810	4,212
Court fees - -	2,154	3,225	4,424	4,432	4,600	4,721

There were 17 appeals from the decision of these courts, 11 being in civil cases and six in criminal cases.

One appeal was remitted back to the court, two appeals were dismissed, three were not prosecuted by the appellants, and in 11 cases the judgments of the district court were confirmed.

Botanical Gardens.—Castleton Garden.

This garden was very much improved during the year. Mr. Jenman has taken great interest in collecting indigenous ferns and orchids, and has about 100 species of each. The Fern House, constructed about two years ago, has suffered considerably from storms, and especially from the heavy rainfall that accompanied the hurricane of November last, but no material injury was done to the collection of plants.

Indian Teak.—This has attained a height of 30 feet in four years.

Ipecacuanha.—The plants make slow progress.

Nutmegs.—The cultivation of these plants is much in favour. 2,000 plants are under propagation for distribution.

Tobacco.—Her Britannic Majesty's Consul General at Havanna having forwarded a supply of the valuable Vuelta Abajo seed, a free distribution to the public was made, and there is reason to anticipate an extensive cultivation. The success of tobacco cultivation in Jamaica is now achieved, and it may be considered one of the staple products of the island.

Liberian Coffee.—Forty-six healthy plants of this new variety of coffee were received from Kew in July. Some of the plants have been sent to the more important coffee properties, to Castleton and to Stony Hill, so that the plant will be brought under the influence of a great range of elevation and various conditions of moisture. The rest are being treated in the hot pit, and are growing vigorously, the longest leaves being over 10 inches long.

Palisadoes Plantation. -- During the year 10,000 cocoa-nuts were planted out, which brings up the total number planted to 18,500. The remaining land to be planted will be completed in the autumn of this year and there seems to be a good prospect of

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the previous estimate of the annual yield of these trees being realised. Cocoa-nuts are abundant round nearly the whole seaboard of the Island, and it is matter of regret that the valuable products of this plant are not turned to more account by private enterprise.

Kingston Parade Garden.

A supply of water having been obtained, the central divisions of the garden have been planted with Bahama grass, and flower plots have been formed and planted. A comparatively thick shrubbery has already been formed within the iron railing round whole extent of the garden. The Victoria Regia flourishes the whole year in the central basin. Colocusia, the variegated screw pine, the variegated aloe, dracenas, crottons, the poinsettia, palms, the bamboo, cacti, and coleus, have been planted in masses through the lawns. Specimens of economic plants have also been planted, such as the banyan tree, mahogany, mahoe, cedar, bullytree, breadnut, breadfruit, diri-diri, pimento, nutmeg, Vanilla, China-grass, arrowroot, cassava, teak, and sissoo (the two most valuable timber trees of India), croton oil, gamboge, &c., which, whilst contributing greatly to the interest and beauty of the garden, will doubtless prove an attraction to visitors to Jamaica.

New Sugar Canes.

Encouraging accounts of the successful cultivation of the Salangore cane have been received from several parts of the island, and nearly an acre of it has been planted at Hope in order to supply planters with cuttings.

Pine Apple.

Five acres of this valuable fruit have been planted.

Teak.

A bag containing thousands of seeds was obtained from India through Kew Gardens. From these about a thousand plants have been obtained and several acres planted.

Mahogany.

Small plantations, to the extent of about 10 acres each, have been partly planted and will be shortly completed with mahogany, cedar, and the greenheart of Demerara.

Cinchona Plantation.

Cinchonas were first planted six years ago, and the trees now range in height from 12 to 23 feet. Two hundred and fifty acres are now in Cinchonas. C. succirubra continues to grow more freely than the other species. C. Pahudiana continues to present a sickly appearance, and the majority of the plants have been removed in favour of a better species. The mortality amongst young seedlings while in pots, alluded to in the Report for 1872, continues.

Tea.

This plant could now be propagated to any extent, and it grows with the greatest luxuriance.

Interchange of Plants and Seeds.

Contributions have been received from Kew Gardens, Trinidad, Sir John Peter Grant and others, and collections have been sent to Kew Gardens, India, Trinidad, Barbados, and Honourable W. Russell, Demerara.

Education.

Elementary Schools.—The year under report is the seventh since the grant in aid regulations came into effect. The table given below shows that the yearly increase in the number of schools inspected continues.

—	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.
First class - - -	1	3	4	6	7	11	17
Second class - - -	6	20	35	68	94	125	145
Third class - - -	89	173	206	239	268	274	285
Exceptional half grants -	88	21	53	47	35	16	22
Total aided - -	184	217	298	360	404	426	469

The constant increase in the number of schools passing from the lower to the higher classes, which has been noticed in former reports, was again experienced during the past year. A comparison between the first and the last columns of the above table exhibits in a striking degree the advance made in the education of the people during the past seven years.

From the following table it will be seen that the decrease in 1872–73 in the number of scholars on the books, as well as in the average daily attendance, did not continue during the year under report. On the contrary, the attendances during the period in question are the highest noted since the introduction of the regulations of 1867.

—	1871–2.	1872–3.	1873–4.
Pupils on books - - - -	38,006	37,496	43,135
Average daily attendance - - -	22,435	22,005	25,160
Present at inspection - - - -	27,761	25,349	29,967
	£	£	£
School fees paid by parents - - -	5,873	5,812	6,087
Grants in aid - - - -	9,897	10,982	12,708

The inspector of schools reports that the work of the schools was very seriously interrupted during this year in some localities by the extensive prevalence of small-pox and measles, and in some of the mountain districts by such continuous rains as have not been

experienced for many years past. So severe was this visitation of small-pox in some parts of the Island that many schools had to be closed for a time, while the attendance at others was so reduced as to preclude the possibility of having them examined in the usual way with any degree of fairness to the managers or teachers, and consequently five of these schools were allowed to retain their last year's position in respect to class without passing through the usual examination.

In the face of these retarding influences it is the more gratifying to find that the general progress has been so good.

It is also reported that the schools are getting more into the hands of trained teachers each year, which may be regarded as a guarantee of improvement in instruction and in general school management. As all the normal training schools, of which there are seven in operation at present, have now their full complement of students, the number of trained teachers should continue to increase steadily.

1,009*l.* was allowed this year for opening grants, and was distributed amongst 18 schools. 475*l.* was also allowed as special grants to 15 schools in destitute districts.

The total expenditure of the Educational Department in each of the last seven years was as follows :—

	£		£
1867–68 -	- 4,120	1871–72 -	- 14,573
1868–69 -	- 6,243	1872–73 -	- 16,266
1869–70 -	- 9,189	1873–74 -	- 16,988
1870–71 -	- 11,778		

Immigration.

During the year 1873–74 three vessels arrived with immigrants from Calcutta. Of 1,463 souls embarked, 1,356 were landed in the Colony, the mortality at sea being 114, or a percentage of 77·9. The death-rate on the respective ships was as below :—

"Woodburn" - -	- 11·13
"Duke of Argyll" - -	- 5·01
"Loch Lomond" - -	- 6·17

The deaths on the "Woodburn" were chiefly from contagious fever and dysentery. The surgeon superintendent's report shows that the fever was brought on board in a latent form. On the "Loch Lomond" cholera broke out on the tenth day after leaving India. Amongst the Coolies in these ships there were several who had already been in Jamaica.

Since last year's report arrangements have been made for supplying each Coolie prior to disembarkation with suitable clothing for field work. It is furnished by the Immigration Department at the employer's expense. Formerly the employer was required to furnish it, and much trouble and delay was often caused in consequence.

The new arrangement meets with general approval, the Coolies now being in a position to begin work as soon as they are located.

During the year the Coolies who arrived in 1869 by the ships

"Patrician," "Buckinghamshire," and "Gainsborough" completed their industrial service, and it is satisfactory to find that the majority of these have remained on the estates to which they were originally indentured.

The mortality tables show a decrease in the death-rate amongst the total number of immigrants as compared with last year, and also amongst the Coolies who have not yet completed their first and second year's residence respectively.

It is worthy of note that, although small-pox has been in the Island in an epidemic form during the past year, there have been only two cases, and these of a mild nature, amongst the indentured immigrants. This may fairly be attributed to the great care taken by the Government medical officers in vaccinating all not already so protected.

A new union hospital has been opened at Buff Bay, making in all 12 of these institutions now in operation. Their condition and management continue to improve, and there is less difficulty in obtaining dispensers and nurses.

At the Cooly depôt at Spanish Town considerable improvements have been made.

With the exception of one case of murder the general conduct of the immigrants has been good.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in savings banks for the last nine years are shown below:—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
1867 - -	2,278	54,807
1868 - -	2,524	58,913
1869 - -	3,004	74,394
1870 - -	*469 †2,205 } 2,674	*£16,200 †£63,486 } 79,686
1871 - -	*2,024 †982 } 3,026	*£93,776 †£11,702 } 105,478
1872 - -	3,396	142,240
1873 - -	3,962	158,933
1874 - -	4,582	179,176

In the above amount of 169,176*l.* are included deposits on account of public funds to the extent of 18,037*l.*, and deposits of the Court of Chancery amounting to 6,475*l.*

Trade.

The value of the imports for each of the last eight years is shown below:—

	£		£
‡1867 - -	859,186	1870–71 -	1,331,185
‡1868 - -	1,023,866	1871–72 -	1,559,602
‡1869 - -	1,224,414	1872–73 -	1,733,121
‡1870 - -	1,300,455	1873–74 -	1,762,817

* Government Savings Bank. † Private Savings Bank.
‡ These are calendar years.

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The following table of articles imported, which were freed from duty in 1867, is given in continuation of similar tables in previous reports :—

—	1867.*	1868.*	1869.*	1870.*	1870–71.	1871–72.	1872–73.	1873–74.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Steam engines - -	101	3,046	6,904	5,460	4,738	14,033	28,003	11,485
Mills - - - -	1,072	1,882	38,22	3,434	9,825	21,644	13,804	10,219
Other machinery - -	6,879	8,023	6,644	7,844	11,420	5,165	9,149	4,966
Pans for boiling sugar -	603	984	2,409	4,676	4,301	6,052	4,603	2,839
Pipes for fluids - -	374	1,331	1,202	2,493	2,165	1,801	19,687	1,801
Stills - - - - -	559	1,174	2,977	1,698	1,878	1,906	6,076	3,986
Shooks of all sorts - -	18,023	19,479	17,362	12,180	13,187	16,743	17,051	17,070
Staves - - - -	5,587	6,418	3,847	3,823	5,431	7,945	5,205	15,207
Woodhoops - - -	1,225	2,773	2,264	2,981	3,857	2,653	1,856	1,822
Iron, galvanized - -	1,238	1,985	1,902	3,142	3,818	5,666	6,971	5,339
Ditto, other manufactures	3,184	1,174	1,215	1,933	84	56	—	452
Miscellaneous - -	858	2,719	2,004	3,348	2,369	5,367	5,243	2,559
	39,703	50,988	52,552	53,012	63,073	89,031	117,648	77,745

The value of the exports for each of the last eight years is shown below :—

—	Values.		
	Of Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.	Of British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufacture.	Total.
	£	£	£
*1867 - -	1,016,554	28,540	1,045,094
*1868 - -	1,098,332	40,472	1,138,804
*1869 - -	1,052,562	110,207	1,162,769
*1870 - -	1,158,835	124,171	1,283,026
1870–71 - -	1,196,532	52,153	1,248,685
1871–72 - -	1,348,858	69,585	1,418,443
1872–73 - -	1,144,173	81,838	1,226,011
1873–74 - -	1,369,507	72,573	1,442,080

The exports of the principal staples for the last eight years are shown in the following table :—

—	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1870–71.	1871–72.	1872–73.	1873–74.
Sugar, hogsheads -	31,206	36,259	29,268	30,747	37,010	35,353	28,428	28,398
Rum, puncheons -	18,834	20,274	15,270	16,897	19,376	20,113	16,584	19,350
Coffee, lbs. - -	6,264,861	7,758,985	5,025,812	9,047,284	5,508,989	9,510,739	7,199,144	10,311,427
Pimento, lbs. -	7,595,800	4,373,259	6,575,249	5,243,109	6,857,830	5,140,898	6,024,551	5,762,256
Dyewoods, fustic, and logwood, tons - - -	48,481	49,129	118,678	84,744	59,951	80,699	52,952	65,241
Ginger, lbs. - -	1,728,075	2,036,921	1,261,873	680,492	632,031	599,766	815,659	1,181,789
Arrowroot, lbs. -	44,566	27,346	11,731	6,343	5,820	13,193	2,470	1,636

Below is a statement of the values of the fruit exported during the last three years :—

	£
1871–72 - - -	- 6,190
1872–73 - - -	- 4,750
1873–74 - - -	- 10,397

* These are calendar years.

I am informed that the falling off in 1872–73 was due to the failure of an American firm at Port Antonio which dealt largely in this trade, and also to the drought that prevailed during that year.

The export of bananas formed a large portion of the increase in 1873–74.

General Remarks.

The traffic returns of the railway show some decrease of passenger traffic, and a small increase in the carriage of merchandize as compared with the preceding year:—

	1873.	1874.
Passengers - - - - -	129,600	117,128
Horses - - - - -	668	614
Carriages - - - - -	205	132
Cattle - - - - -	651	716
Sheep - - - - -	495	463
Bundles of 28 lbs. guinea grass - -	420,452	452,167
Bundles of 30 lbs. wood - - -	269,402	177,350
Tons merchandize - - - -	14,852	16,146

Returns received from the telegraph office show a large increase of business compared with the last return received in 1872, viz.:—

	1872.	1874.
Messages received from abroad - -	2,407	3,405
Messages sent - - - -	2,274	3,140

I regret to say that in some districts of the Island small-pox was epidemic during the greater part of the year, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of the medical department to arrest the progress of the disease. The following extract from the annual report of the superintending medical officer states his view of the difficulties which the Department has had to contend with:—

"Having been appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies superintending medical officer in Jamaica, I left England on 2nd January, and arrived in the Island on 20th of that month.

"In less than a week I heard of a case of small-pox having appeared in Kingston. How it originated I know not, nor has it, I believe, ever been proved that, as stated, it had been imported in a vessel from Cuba. Be this as it may, from that time to this we have had the disease, which has raged epidemically in some parts of the Island, especially in the districts of Vere and Clarendon, endemically in others, whilst in some, again, only a stray case here and there has occurred. Were I to narrate all the steps which have been taken by Government to arrest the progress of the disease, a volume might be written on that subject alone.

JAMAICA.

Personally, I endeavoured to establish a supply of vaccine lymph, but failed from inability to obtain a horse with postular grease in Kingston. Throughout the Island, wherever I afterwards passed whilst on a tour of inspection, I did my utmost to enlist the services of the different Government medical officers in the cause of establishing our own supply of lymph, but nowhere could a horse with the necessary postular grease be obtained. That disease appears unknown amongst the horses in the Colony. Suffice it to say at present that the population of this Island has been its own greatest enemy, that it has resisted all advice in the matter of sanitary and precautionary measures, that it has courted this terrible disease by wilful and unnecessary exposure to its influences, by refusing in very many instances the safeguard of vaccination, and by the display of a selfishness which, by declining to contribute by any, the slightest personal effort, towards a general and public benefit, has caused great difficulty in maintaining a supply of lymph, rendered that most powerful means of vaccination—arm to arm—next to impossible, caused vaccination in series from good beginning to be interrupted again and again, and so prolonged the existence of a malady which would, in all probability, have been extirpated in its early stage but for the adverse and obstinate resistance, defiance, I may say, with which this population has met all the measures taken and the facilities offered to those willing to avail themselves of them."

The large public institutions where proper sanitary arrangements and vaccinations could be enforced escaped almost entirely the ravages of this disease. In the lunatic asylum, with a daily average of 289 patients, there were only four cases, all of which recovered. In the General Penitentiary, with a daily average of 533 convicts, there were nine cases, of which two proved fatal. In the Saint Catherine District Prison, with an average of 117 convicts, three cases occurred, one of which was fatal. These institutions are all situated in districts which suffered severely from the epidemic.

There was, in the early part of the year, an outbreak of yellow fever in the neighbourhood of Kingston, and at Port Royal, from which several deaths ensued. Among those who succumbed to the disease on this occasion was the late Attorney General, Mr. Schalch, a gentleman by whose untimely death the Colony lost a most able and valuable public servant.

The tranquillity and good order which have happily become characteristic of this Colony were undisturbed during the year.

(Signed) W. GREY.

King's House, Jamaica,
8th September 1875.

TURKS ISLANDS.

No. 4.

Governor Sir WM. GREY, K.C.S.I., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

King's House, Jamaica,
December 23, 1875.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for 1874, and the Commissioner's Report thereon. I also transmit a letter from the Commissioner, in which he forwards the Blue Book and Report, and excuses himself for his delay in doing so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GREY.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.
Colonial Office.

Mr. SMITH to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Commissioner's Office, Grand Turk,
November 5, 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, in duplicate, the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1874, together with my Report thereon.

I have again to express my regret that I have not been able to forward the Blue Book at any earlier period, owing to difficulties in its preparation which have not yet been overcome.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. T. SMITH,
Commissioner.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.,
Jamaica.

ENCLOSURE 1.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of the TURKS and CAICOS ISLANDS for the year 1874.

Taxation.

There was no alteration in taxation during the year 1874.

TURKS ISLANDS.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
1874 - - - -	7,635	3	10
1873 - - - -	7,406	5	3
Increase for 1874 - -	228	18	7

The increase in the revenue for the year 1874, as compared with that of the previous year, is to be attributed chiefly to the import duties and the "royalty on salt"; the former arising from an ad valorem duty on unenumerated articles in the tariff, and the latter from an increased quantity of salt exported. The sums compared in the above years are the actual receipts of those years, exclusive of any balances remaining over from the previous years, and include the amounts received as "Crown Funds," which funds, under Ordinance No. 1 of 1874, were transferred to the General Revenue.

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
1874 - - - -	6,938	15	11
1873 - - - -	9,149	12	11
Decrease for 1874 - -	2,210	17	0

The decrease in the expenditure for 1874 arose mainly from the operation of the new Constitution, under Ordinance No. 8 of 1873, providing for the annexation of the Turks and Caicos Islands to the Colony of Jamaica, and by which the Commissioner's Department is made to include the offices and duties of the former Executive Colonial Secretary, except as Registrar of Deeds, which duties, together with those of Auditor, are now performed by the Judge of the Supreme Court, and Financial Departments, as also those of Surveyor and Inspector of Public Works, the Police and Assistant Police Magistrates, and which have in like manner been transferred to the Assistant Commissioners respectively at Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour, East Caicos; the abolition of the offices of arms cleaner, and fire engine keeper, and reduction in contract for printing. The decrease was further attributable to a refund of a moiety of contributions for widows and orphans, less repairs executed, and sundry other minor disbursements.

	£	s.	d.
Revenue of 1874 - - -	7,635	3	10
Expenditure do. - -	6,938	15	11
Excess of revenue over expenditure	696	7	11
And balance for 1873 - -	82	0	1
Balance available for services of 1875	878	8	0

Crown Fund.

Under Ordinance No. 1 of 1874, the proceeds of Crown lands, including salinas and other Crown revenue of these Islands, during the year under report, had amounted to 2,391*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* The principal item from this source arose from a royalty of 10 per cent. ad valorem, payable on all salt exported, and produced the sum of 2,338*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*, the remainder being for rent of Crown lands, sales of water, and other Government property, &c.

Value of Imports.

Year.	Value.
	£ *s.* *d.*
1874	23,773 3 11
1873	18,330 2 9
Increase for 1874 -	5,443 1 2

The imports for 1874 were: — From United Kingdom 2,151*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*, from British Colonies 1,424*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, and from Foreign Countries 20,197*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*

Salt Exported.

Year.	Bushels.	Value.
		£ *s.* *d.*
1874	1,603,200	22,339 16 3
1870	1,526,506	22,226 14 4
Increase for 1874 -	76,694	113 1 11

The exports for 1874 were:—to British Colonies 3,234*l.* 2*s.* 0*d.*, and to Foreign Countries 21,087*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, making a total of 24,321*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*, and which sum includes the value of a small quantity of sea shells, sponge, turtle shell, and brazilletto, the produce of the Colony, amounting to 129*l.* 16*s.* 0*d.*, and wrecked ships, materials, and imported articles, amounting to 1,851*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*

Shipping.

Year.	No. of Vessels.	Tons entered.
1874	362	50,998
1873	344	55,789
Increase and Decrease for 1874 - -	Increase, 18	Decrease, 4,791

The decrease in tonnage, though an increase in number of vessels, entering in 1874 is accounted for by the fact that 13

TURKS ISLANDS.

steam vessels of 10,217 tons entered during the year 1873, while only five of that class of 3,555 tons entered during the year 1874.

Public Debt.

The public debt at the close of the year 1874 remained at the same amount, namely, 2,000*l.*, as when reported on in the previous year; but, during the present year, the sum of 500*l.* of the debt, with interest, has been paid off.

Public Works.

The expenditure under this head was for the usual repairs of roads, cleaning cattle wells, repairing and painting mooring buoys, painting lighthouse, repairing enclosure walls, repairs to poorshouse and hospital, and other miscellaneous works, amounting in all to 111*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

Legislation.

There were two Ordinances passed by the Legislative Board during the year 1874, and received Her Majesty's gracious confirmation. They were as follows:—

Ordinance No. 1 *of* 1874

To authorise the transfer of the proceeds from the Crown lands in the Turks and Caicos Islands to the general revenue of these Islands.

Ordinance No. 2 *of* 1874.

To provide for the appropriation of divers sums of money to be paid from the public Treasury of the said Islands for and towards defraying the contingent expenses of the said Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1875.

Principal Government Notices.

There were 16 principal Government notices issued during the year 1874. Of these, four were proclaiming Her Majesty's confirmation and allowance of Ordinances Nos. 8, 9, 10, and 11 of 1873; one appointing annual commissioners of salt ponds, poorshouse and hospital, lighthouse, committee of management of prisons, and directors of the public bank; one publishing an order of Her Majesty in Council, notifying an Extradition Treaty between Her Majesty and the Emperor of Brazil; two publishing half-yearly statements of the affairs of the public bank; one, notifying the receipt of Her Majesty's exequatur, approving of Señor Joseph Hutchings as Consul for the Dominican Republic at Turks Islands; one notifying Her Majesty's appointment of William John Anderson, Esquire, barrister-at-law, to be Judge of the Supreme Court and Court of Ordinary of these Islands; one notifying the appointment of Alexander Morrison, Esquire, as marriage officer for the district of the Caicos Islands; one notifying that (in addition to the Commissioner and Judge of the Supreme Court, who are ex-officio members) the appointment by

his Excellency the Governor of Jamaica, of Messrs. A. G. Wynns, N. T. Godet, C. R. Hinson, and G. D. Jones, to be members of the Legislative Board of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and of which Board the Commissioner to be President; one appointing Joseph Hutchings a director of the public bank, vice J. R. Talbot deceased; one notifying the suspension for six months of Wallace Delancey, for carelessness and neglect of duty as pilot, while in charge of the Danish bark "Princess Alexandra;" one calling for tenders for supplies to the jail and poorshouse and hospital, and one calling for tenders for supplying oil to the lighthouse at Grand Turk.

Political Franchise.

The political franchise recently existing in the Turks and Caicos Islands was abolished when the new Constitution created by Her Majesty's Order in Council of the 4th August 1873 came into operation on the 1st of January 1874.

Legislative Board.

Under Her Majesty's Order in Council of the 4th August 1873 annexing the Turks and Caicos Islands to the Colony of Jamaica, and previously referred to, a board of legislation, styled "The Legislative Board of the Turks and Caicos Islands," was established in the room of the former Legislative Council, and "which "Board, subject to the provisions of the said Order in Council, "have all the powers, jurisdiction, and authority hitherto possessed "by and vested in the said Legislative Council."

By the 3rd section of the said Order in Council, and subject to its provisions, "the Governor and Legislature of Jamaica have "respectively the same jurisdiction, powers, and authority over the "Turks and Caicos Islands that they have over the Island of "Jamaica, provided that no law passed by the Legislature of "Jamaica shall apply to the Turks and Caicos Islands, unless it "is in express terms made applicable thereto."

By the 5th section of the before-mentioned Order in Council, the Legislative Board is to "consist of not less than four and not "more than six persons, and the Commissioner and the Judge of "the Supreme Court are by virtue of their offices members of the "said board."

By warrants under the Great Seal of Jamaica, dated the 23rd July 1874, his Excellency Sir William Grey, K.C.S.I., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Jamaica and its dependencies, according to the provisions of the 6th and 7th sections of the before-cited Order in Council, appointed Messrs. A. G. Wynns, N. T. Godet, C. R. Hinson, and G. D. Jones, Esquires, to be members of the Legislative Board, and Daniel Thomas Smith, Esquire, the Commissioner, to be President of the said Board.

The Legislative Board, with regard to its members, stands thus: D. T. Smith, W. J. Anderson, A. G. Wynns, official members; and N. T. Godet, C. R. Hinson, G. D. Jones, unofficial.

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Civil Establishment.

The civil establishment of these Islands was re-constructed under Ordinance No. 8 of 1873, which came into operation on the 1st of January 1874. The principal variance from the former civil establishment was in abolition of various titles of offices, and substituting others in their stead, with amalgamated duties to be performed under new designations. The most important of these new titles and amalgamated duties are pointed out under the head of Revenue, and there referred to in accounting for the decrease in expenditure for 1874 as compared with that of 1873.

Pensions.

The amount of pensions at the end of 1874 was 830*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*, since then, owing to the death of Mr. Charles Baker, ex-jailer at Grand Turk, his widow and three daughters have become entitled to a combined pension of 24*l.* per annum, under 7 Vict. c. 23., Bahama Acts.

Population.

The population of these Islands have been reported since the year 1871, in accordance with the Census taken in that year, to amount to 4,723, of which number 2,274 were males and 2,449 females. During the year 1874, there were 193 births, 29 marriages, and 84 deaths registered, against 167 births, 20 marriages, and 77 deaths, in 1873.

Ecclesiastical Return.

By Ordinance No. 5 of 1873, the Church of England in these Islands was disestablished and disendowed. But, notwithstanding the provisions made by that Ordinance for such purposes, and nearly two years ago, up to the present time no permanent steps have been taken either for holding the edifices and other property in use by that Church, or for making suitable arrangements for its services. And with regard to the parish church of St. Thomas, in particular, in which the Rev. Mr. Humphries is officiating, his religious teachings and ritualistic practices have become so objectionable to a large portion of the most intelligent and influential followers of that Church, that they have temporarily withdrawn themselves and worship elsewhere.

Education.

The Board of Education appointed under Ordinance No. 6 of 1872, and composed of the Commissioner as chairman, and six other members, have under their supervision six schools which, though professedly private, receive gratuities from the general revenue, according to the efficiency and numbers of each school. In these schools only reading, writing, and arithmetic are required by the board to be taught, a course of education intended for the children of the labouring classes, and which, owing to the limited grant, 200*l.*, is necessarily confined to those classes. Any higher degree

of education in the schools referred to is provided at the expense of the parents or guardians of the pupils. The scholars generally, whose parents or guardians can afford to do so, pay a weekly fee of 1½*d.* The most important of these schools is the one at Grand Turk, taught by Mr. Wint, who is permitted for that purpose to occupy a room in the building erected originally for public schools. The total number of scholars taught in the schools under consideration was, at the close of the year 1874, 439. Of this number 116 belong to the school at Grand Turk, 45 at Salt Cay, 76 at Cockburn Harbour, 63 at Lorimers, 31 at Kew, and 108 at Blue Hills; the four last schools referred to are situated at the Caicos Islands. The amount of gratuities and for school books and other materials paid during the year 1874 was 181*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, and fees received by the several teachers 47*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, making a total contribution from public and private sources of 229*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*

Jails and Prisoners.

There were 45 persons committed to the common jail at Grand Turk, and three to the lock-up at Cockburn Harbour, East Caicos, making a total of 48 in 1874; against 98 to the former, and 11 to the latter prison, aggregating a total of 109, in 1873. The sanitary state of these prisons during the year 1874 was generally good. There were two deaths occurred in the common jail during that year, and upon which occasions inquests were held, and the verdict in each case was "died from natural causes."

Criminal Statistics.

The following comparative table shows the number and description of offences committed, number of apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals, taking place in the courts of these Islands during the year 1874, and the three previous years:—

—	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.
The number of offences reported to the police - -	228	237	287	218
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates.	304	277	304	225
The number of summary convictions :—				
1. For offences against the person - - -	52	62	42	30
2. Prædial larceny - - - - - -	5	5	19	3
3. Offences against property other than prædial larceny.	33	42	31	29
4. Other offences - - - - - -	163	132	159	85
The number of convictions in the Supreme Court :—				
1. For offences against the person - - -	—	5	2	2
2. Prædial larceny - - - - - -	—	—	—	—
3. Offences against property other than prædial larceny.	1	3	—	2
4. Other offences* - - - - - -	—	—	—	—
The number of persons acquitted :—				
1. In the Police Courts - - - - -	46	25	24	63
2. In the Supreme Court - - - -	—	—	—	3

* Note by the Judge of the Supreme Court.—One prisoner committed from the Police Court charged with an unnatural offence died before trial.

TURKS ISLANDS.

Poorshouse and Hospital.

In this establishment there were at the beginning of the year 1874 16 inmates, and 10 were admitted during that year. There were also six paupers who received out-door support, at a cost of 25*l.* The cost of the paupers within the poorshouse was 1*s.* 6¾*d.* per diem, and of those receiving out-door relief 3½*d.* per diem. The total expenditure for the establishment, including out-door relief, amounted to 384*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* In the hospital connected with the poorshouse there were at the beginning of the year 1874 seven inmates, and 23 admitted during the year. Of this number 13 were cured, three relieved, and 12 died.

General Remarks.

The year under report is the first year of the "New Constitution," and it is noteworthy that, compared with the previous year, 1873, the trade of these Islands, judging from their imports and exports, had increased. There were also introduced for the first time in the Settlement a steam engine for grinding salt, and other two of the same description have since been put in operation. The effect of these engines has been to create a new export of ground salt for the North American markets, to be used chiefly for curing fish, and an increased employment for the labouring class.

The health of the Settlement generally has been good, and the people contented, though not very prosperous, owing to the low price obtained for their great staple, salt.

(Signed) D. T. SMITH,
Commissioner.

BRITISH GUIANA.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 5.

Governor LONGDEN, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Georgetown,
December 17, 1875.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of British Guiana for the year 1874, which has only now reached my hands. The enclosed memorandum from the Acting Government Secretary shows the cause of the long delay which has taken place in furnishing it.

Taxation.

2. No change was made in the public taxes during the year 1874.

3. More than six sevenths of the public revenue are derived from import duties and taxes on the liquor traffic. The import duties are reasonable, being five per cent. *ad valorem* on all wares and merchandise not specifically named in the tariff. The specific duties are equally moderate. The general taxation is at the rate of 1*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* per head of the population. This is exclusive of the indenture fees paid by the planters on the immigrants introduced into the Colony and indentured to them.

Finances.

4. The balances in the Colonial Treasury at the commencement of the year 1874 amounted to 81,463*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*; the revenue yielded by the general taxes amounted to 365,457*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*; and the deposits, repayment of loans, and receipts from sources other than taxation, amounted to 110,427*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, making a total of 557,349*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* The general expenditure provided for in the annual estimate was 381,103*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*; the advances, repayments of deposits, and other charges not included in the estimate, amounted to 104,790*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*; and the balances remaining in the Treasury at the end of the year amounted to 71,455*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*

5. The above expenditure only includes that part of the cost of immigration, exclusive of the staff, that was chargeable under the law of 1873 on the general revenue, amounting to 15,637*l.* 10*s.*; but the actual cost of the immigration was 172,220*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*, so that the planter's share was 156,582*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*, of which the sum of 127,904*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* was received on allotment notes, and the balance of 28,678*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* was advanced from the Treasury and carried to the debit of the immigration fund. This latter sum is included among the "advances" named in the preceding paragraph.

6. If the sum received from the planters for the immigration fund and the whole sum expended on immigration be added to the general revenue and expenditure respectively, the gross revenue will be found to amount to 603,790*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*, and the gross expenditure to 613,798*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*

7. This expenditure seems, no doubt, very considerable for a Colony of which the population does not probably reach 220,000, but if carefully examined it will be seen that the actual charges of the civil Government are not large in comparison to the extent of country over which the population is scattered. In order to enable your Lordship to see at a glance the general character of the public expenditure, I have prepared the following table, grouping the expenditure of 1874 under 10 principal heads, namely: 1. Civil Government and all charges connected therewith; 2. Support of the clergy; 3. Administration of justice, including police and gaols; 4. Relief of the poor, including hospitals and asylums; 5. Public education; 6. Maintenance of steam communication; 7. Collection of the revenue; 8. Public works; 9. Immigration; and, 10. Public debt.

BRITISH GUIANA.

	£	s.	d.
1. Civil Government, including the salaries of the executive officers, pensions, postal charges, and all miscellaneous expenses of the Government - - -	41,844	4	11
2. Clergy, support of - - -	19,563	19	6½
3. Administration of justice, including salaries of judicial officers, and maintenance of the police and of gaols - - -	103,079	13	6½
4. Relief of poor, support of public hospitals and asylums - - - -	46,943	2	8½
5. Public education - - - -	19,525	18	1
6. Steam communication between the three Colonies, Demerara, Essequebo, and Berbice - - - -	10,600	0	0
7. Collection of the revenue, including expenses of Treasury, Audit, and Customs' departments - - - -	22,090	17	3½
8. Public works - - - -	50,922	17	7½
9. Immigration - - - -	199,964	13	11½
10. Public debt - - - -	23,150	5	2
Total - - -	£537,685	12	7

8. It will be seen from these figures that nearly half of the total expenditure of the Colony was absorbed in immigration and public works.

Local Revenues.

9. Besides the general public revenue and expenditure there were local revenues raised in the city of Georgetown, in the borough of New Amsterdam, and in 21 villages, amounting in the aggregate to 45,844*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*, which were expended on local objects, chiefly maintaining and keeping in order roads, streets, sea-dams, and drainage; and in the two towns in markets, lighting, and watering the streets, and waterworks.

10. The city of Georgetown, the town of New Amsterdam, and several of the villages have also incurred debts for effecting public improvements.

11. The city of Georgetown is indebted to the amount of 67,057*l.* 10*s.*, being the sum due on larger loans borrowed at different times for the construction of waterworks and for improving the city in various ways. The amount due is less than two years' income, and the repayment of it is spread by law over a series of years.

12. The town of New Amsterdam had, under the authority of an Ordinance passed in 1869, borrowed up to 1874 the sum of 6,250*l.* for the construction of works to supply the town with fresh water. This debt has since been increased (in 1875) by an addi-

tional sum of 2,083*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, since borrowed for completing the works, making a total of 8,333*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, equivalent to more than two years present revenue of the borough, but that revenue will no doubt be increased by the imposition of water rates.

13. The villages owe the Government collectively the sum of 22,776*l.* 10*s.*, which is equivalent to more than five years collective revenue. The sum of 665*l.* 8*s.* 9*d*, was repaid to the Treasury in 1874 on account of these loans. The loans were generally raised for purposes of local improvements, repairing or renewing sluice gates (called kokers), for regulating the drainage, repairing bridges, or other works of similar kind. Two of the villages in particular, the united village of Buxton and Friendship and the village of Plaisance, are indebted in the large sums of 9,683*l.* 19*s.* and 7,777*l.* 16*s.* respectively, for the importation and erection of steam draining machinery for draining their lands. These two debts are secured, not on the village rates, but on certain lands belonging to each village, which can only be cultivated by the aid of the steam drainage. The security would have been found sufficient if it had been always respected. Unfortunately in the case of Plaisance village a considerable part of the money received for the drained land was applied by the inspector of villages in aid of the village rates for local purposes instead of being paid into the Treasury on account of the debt to the Government. In the Buxton and Friendship village the draining machinery was not completed until the present year 1875.

Public Debt.

14. The returns in the Blue Book show that the amount of the public debt, after deducting the amount of the sinking fund, was 26,820*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*

15. Besides this there are the following debts, guaranteed by the Colony :—

16. The immigration bonds, issued every year by the commissioners appointed under the Ordinance of 1864 to pay for the expenses of the immigration. These bonds fall due in five years from the date of issue, and are redeemed as they fall due out of the money received from the planters in redemption of the notes given by them for indenture fees under the authority of the Ordinance of 1873. The amount outstanding in 1874 was 253,300*l.* The security to the Government for these bonds is a preferent lien on the plantations in respect of which the notes are given.

17. The amount borrowed by the municipality of Georgetown still outstanding is 67,057*l.* 10*s.*, and is secured on the municipal revenues. The debt of New Amsterdam is 6,250*l.*, secured in the same manner. There are also certain loans borrowed under the authority of Ordinance 19 of 1868 for the purpose of purchasing or erecting residences for the clergy of the churches of England and Scotland. These loans are guaranteed by the Colony under Ordinance No. 19 of 1870. They are secured upon the salaries of the clergy and upon the parsonage houses in respect of which

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the money was borrowed. The sum remaining unpaid (including interest) is 20,656*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*

18. The total amount of the debts guaranteed by the Colony is 347,264*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, and the security for them may be considered ample.

19. The financial position of the Colony is on the whole as satisfactory as that of any country can be which is wholly dependent for its prosperity on successfully raising a single staple.

Public Works.

20. Chief among the public works in progress last year were the sea-walls and groynes designed to protect Georgetown and the land on the opposite side of the Demerara River, known as "the best" from the wash of the sea. These most necessary works cost in 1874 the sum of 11,007*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*

21. The other principal works in progress were the construction of a new almshouse for the poor, on which the sum of 2,887*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* was spent; the construction of a new ward at the lunatics asylum, on which 1,914*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* was spent; a new prison at Suddie which cost 3,644*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*; additions and improvements at the Colonial hospital, costing 2,882*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*; and fencing, draining, and paving round the handsome public buildings in Georgetown, which cost 3,460*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*

22. Among the most useful of the new works commenced in 1874 was the erection of a Government local telegraph, intended to unite all parts of the Colony to the capital by telegraphic communication. There has been for some years a local telegraph between Georgetown and New Amsterdam, which was erected and is maintained by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company under an agreement made in 1869. The Government telegraph now under construction is intended to serve the wants of the rest of the Colony. Starting from Georgetown the line runs up the east bank of the Demerara River as high as the last sugar estate, then crossing the river by a cable it runs down the west bank of the river and along the sea coast to the mouth of the Essequebo River, crosses that river by cable to the Island of Leguan, and from that island by cable again to the Island of Wakenaam, and from Wakenaam by a third cable to the mainland on the west side of the Essequebo River called the Arouabisce coast. The total length of the line is about 65 miles, and 10 miles of cable will be used in crossing the Demerara River and the mouths of the Essequebo River. The land-wire passes everywhere through a populous and well cultivated country, and will place no less than 78 sugar estates in Essequebo, the Islands of Wakenaam and Leguan, and the western part of the county of Demerara, in telegraphic communication with Georgetown. It is also intended that from the town of New Amsterdam land-wires shall be carried through the county of Berbice as far as Skeldon on the Corentyne River, and Mara on the Berbice River. All the settled parts of the country will then be united by telegraph communication.

Legislation.

23. The legislation of 1874 was confined to the annual tax Acts and one or two subjects of immediate interest.

Tapacooma Lake.

24. An Ordinance was passed at the instance of several proprietors on the Essequebo Coast to provide for the management and control of the Tapacooma Lake. This lake is an artificial reservoir made by damming up the outlets of a natural basin situate among low sand hills, or sand reefs, at the back of the estates on the Arabian Coast. The lake was formed nearly half a century ago by a combination of the then owners of the estates on the coast under a private agreement made amongst themselves. Considering the changes which necessarily take place from time to time in the ownership of estates, it was deemed advisable to provide by law for the management and control of the lake, and for the maintenance in good order of the sluices, locks, and canals, which are necessary to regulate the height of water in the lake, to prevent overflows, and to control the supply of water to the estates.

Civil Establishment.

25. The Blue Book records several changes in the public service, among the principal of these are the return to Jamaica of Mr. Rushworth who had administered the Government from July 1873 up to the date of my arrival in April 1874. The appointment of Mr. Young in May to succeed the late Mr. Grant as Government Secretary. The appointment of Mr. C. P. Austin to succeed as Assistant Government Secretary, Mr. E. N. Walker, promoted to Jamaica. The appointment of Mr. N. F. Haines Smith to succeed Mr. Gilbert as Attorney-General, and of Mr. Atkinson as Solicitor-General. There were several deaths in the service, among which I may specially mention Mr. Dalton the late Postmaster of the colony, who had been in the public service for more than 40 years, Archdeacon Webber after a service of 24 years in the Church of England in Demerara, and Dr. Cramer who was only appointed in 1873 Resident Surgeon of the lunatic asylum at Berbice.

Population and Immigration.

26. The population is given in the Blue Book according to the census of 1871, when it was found to be 193,491. Since that year the population has been increased by the following immigration, viz.:—

In 1871, subsequent to the census, there arrived from India - -	1,202
and from Madeira - -	257
and from Barbados - -	524
In 1872 there came from India - -	3,556
from Madeira - - -	367
and from Barbados - -	2,697

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In 1873 there came from India -	- 7,512
from Madeira - -	- 187
from Barbados -	- 3,893
In 1874 there came from India -	- 6,011
from China - -	- 388
from Madeira - -	- 192
from Barbados -	- 1,024
Making a total immigration of	- 27,810

From this augmentation there must be deducted the number of coolies who returned to India or left the Colony in other ways.

The following numbers of Indians and Chinese were sent back to the East :—

In 1871 - - -	- 438
„ 1872 - - -	- 1,126
„ 1873 - - -	- 937
„ 1874 - -	- 467
Making a total of -	- 2,968

Besides these, a few Indians and Chinese have left the Colony for Surinam and other places, but the number is not large, and some of those Coolies who left have returned. The tables in the Blue Book only give the number of those who came to the Colony as immigrants under bounty, and left it to return as immigrants to India at the expense of the Colony. No account is given of the number of those who came to the Colony or left it at their own expense, and they cannot be taken into account in estimating the population. Deducting, therefore, from the number of immigrants those who were sent back to India, it will be seen that the population was increased, between the taking of the census in 1871 and the end of 1874, by 24,842. The natural increase of the population has been very small. In 1871 the Registrar reported that there was an excess of 142 deaths *over the births*, and again in 1872, an excess of 322 deaths *over the births*. There has been some improvement since then, and the Blue Book of 1873 showed an excess of 313 births *over the deaths*, and the enclosed returns give an excess of 729 births. The net result is, that in the four years, 1871–74, there was an excess of 576 births. The population at the end of 1874 may be estimated to have been 218,909, made up as follows :—

Census of 1871 - -	- 193,491
Gain by immigration -	- 24,842
Excess of births over deaths	- 576
Total -	- 218,909

27. Taking as authorities the census of 1871 and the subsequent immigration, the population of the Colony consisted, at the end of 1874, of the following races :—

Natives of British Guiana, not being of Portuguese, Indian, or Chinese parentage - -	103,775
Natives of Barbados and other West India Islands	21,523

Natives of Africa - - - - -	7,541
Natives of India, and children born in the Colony of Indian parents - - - -	63,846
Natives of Madeira or Cape Verde Islands (Portuguese), and children - - - -	13,032
Natives of China and children - - -	7,098
Natives of Europe, North America, and elsewhere	2,094
Total - - -	218,909

28. It is stated in the tables that nearly half the population, or, in actual numbers, 100,160, are engaged in agriculture, and 2,956 in commerce. Of the remainder, some are in the public service or other professions, some are mechanics, some are woodcutters, and many are engaged in the multifarious occupations to be found in a considerable town. Among the agricultural labourers there are said to be no less than 11,894 children under 15 years of age. It has lately come to my knowledge, through the inspector of schools, that children of 13 or 14 years old can earn from 5*s.* to 6*s.* a week, in weeding or other employment suited to their strength. The daily rates of wages are stated in the enclosed Blue Book to vary from 1*s.* to 3*s.* 4*d.* a day for labourers, and from 3*s.* to 8*s.* 4*d.* for tradesmen; but the greater part of all work in the Colony is paid for by the task. Under this system industrious men can earn more money here than agricultural labourers could possibly do in England. Unhappily, there is a great deal of indolence, not amongst the Creoles alone, but also amongst the Coolies, as shown in the reports of the Immigration Agent General, and in the number of offences against the labour laws. One consequence of this too common indolence is that a larger number of people are obliged to be employed on an estate than would be necessary if all the labourers worked regularly six days a week, and this, of course, increases the cost of production. Another necessary consequence is that less money is earned by each labourer on the average than could be earned with fair industry. There is no doubt that by such industry any labourer may, if his health be good, not only earn enough for all his wants, but save money. The savings banks account give some evidence of this. The enclosed tables show that there were in all, last year, 6,569 depositors, owning an aggregate sum of 118,325*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, distributed among the different races in the following manner:—264 Portuguese had deposited in all 9,131*l.* 12*s.*, being, on an average, 34*l.* 14*s.* to each depositor; 2,716 Indian Coolies had deposited 57,765*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*, being, on an average, 21*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* to each; 48 Chinese had deposited 842*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, being 17*l.* 10*s.* to each; 3,541 Creoles had deposited 50,845*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, being 14*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* to each.

29. The savings banks represent only a small part of the capital acquired by the Portuguese Coolies and other labourers. The Portuguese invest much of their savings in trade. They have almost monopolized the liquor traffic throughout the colony, and with this much of the small trade. In Georgetown they compete in trade with other European shop-keepers. In the country

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villages they have almost extinguished competition. Their shops are to be found everywhere, and their capital is to be looked for rather in their shops than in savings banks. With Coolies, again, one of the favorite forms of investing money is in the purchase of cattle, which are owned in great numbers by some Indians.

30. The immigration agent-general in his report for the year 1874 stated that there were in the whole colony 34,360 Indian Coolies, male and female, under indenture on the 31st of December last. As the Indian population at that time probably numbered at least 63,846, there were 29,486 not under indenture. The number of unindentured people is being rapidly augmented in consequence of the cessation of re-indenture, and it is satisfactory to find that thousands of them continue to work on the estates. Mr. Crosby in his report states 14,653 Indians not under indenture were employed on the estates as ordinary labourers.

Education.

31. The report of the inspector of schools for the year 1874 is not satisfactory. Out of 170 denominational schools receiving grants in aid, only 79 succeeded at the annual examination in passing the very moderate test requisite to entitle them to aid, 69 failed altogether, and the other 22 were not, for different reasons, inspected. It is only required, in order to entitle a school to aid, that two-fifths, 40 per cent., of the children presented for examination shall pass in the 1st or 2nd standard, that is, to read the "First Book" of the Revised Code, to write short words on slates, and do easy sums in addition and subtraction. In the 69 schools which failed to pass this humble standard the teaching must have been nearly useless. The state of education generally in the state-aided colleges and upper class schools as well as the primary schools attracted my early attention after my arrival here in April 1874, and in July 1874 I issued a Commission to inquire into the whole subject of public education in British Guiana. This commission made in April and June 1875 two most valuable reports, dealing with all the subjects named in the commission and recommending very extensive changes in the systems now in force both in primary schools and in colleges. These recommendations have been laid before your Lordship and will be referred to next year, when I hope also to be able to announce the measures adopted to carry them out.

Trade.

32. The imports of 1874 are valued at 1,873,219*l.* 9*s.* as against 1,764,571*l.* 8*s.* in 1873, showing an increase of 108,648*l.* 1*s.* The increase is in some cases owing to the greater quantities imported, and in other cases to a rise in price, as in the article rice, of which the quantity imported in 1873 was 32,000,000 lbs., valued at 130,124*l.*, and the quantity imported in 1874 was 35,000,000 lbs., but valued at 201,273*l.*

33. To a sugar growing colony the exports of sugar, rum, and molasses are of the greatest importance. The returns show an export of 98,960 hogsheads of sugar, as against 95,304 in 1873, showing an increase of 3,656 hogsheads, and the value is estimated

at 1,979,400*l.*, being an increase of 359,232*l.* over the estimated value of the sugar exported in 1873. And there was a further increase of 188,453*l.* in the estimated value of the other products of the sugar-cane exported in 1874, the value of rum and molasses exported in 1873 being reckoned as 411,393*l.*, and the value in 1874 as 599,846*l.* Altogether, the quantity of sugar, rum, and molasses exported in 1874 was valued at 2,579,246*l.*

34. The trade in the valuable native woods, chiefly green-heart, appears to be steadily increasing.

The following are the quantities and values of timber exported in each of the last four years:—

			£	*s.*	*d.*
1871	-	- 62,590 feet, valued at	3,900	0	0
1872	-	- 107,888 „	6,788	0	0
1873	-	- 139,666 „	11,188	0	0
1874	-	- 350,471 „	32,418	0	0

35. In the list of exports, coffee appears to the value of 2,568*l.* and cotton to the value of 4,893*l.* Both these staples can be raised in this Colony with facility, and in former years Berbice was famous for its coffee, while cotton was an article of considerable export. Coffee is still grown to a small extent, but most of the old coffee, and all the cotton estates have been turned into sugar estates, and the quantity of coffee and cotton which appear in the Blue Book as exported is very much less than the quantity imported. Cocoa also appears among the exports to the value of 7,492*l.*, but neither is this the produce of the Colony, for though cultivated to a considerable extent in the adjacent province of Surinam, it is not grown here, though there is no doubt that it would thrive well. One of the principal drawbacks to the cultivation of both coffee and cocoa is the length of time which, must elapse after the young trees are planted before they are in full bearing. Rice also will be found among the exports to the value of 31,917*l.*, but this is only a small part of the imported rice re-exported. The cultivation of rice has been commenced by some un-indentured Coolies in the county of Essequebo and promises well. This is a kind of cultivation for which there is an enormous opening, if it can be grown here as cheaply as it is in the East. Last year the importations reached upwards of, 35,000,000 lbs., valued at 201,273*l.*

36. The exports of 1874, were valued at a total sum of 2,761,837*l.* the bulk of which was derived from the sugar rum and molasses exported, of which the value was 2,579,246*l.*, the other exports collectively being valued at 182,591*l.*

Agriculture.

37. The agricultural returns given in the Blue Book are very meagre. It is stated indeed that there are:—

124 Sugar estates.
65 Plantain estates.
78 Cattle farms.
16 Coffee estates.
9 Cocoa-nut estates.

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But the number of acres of land in crop of each staple is not given, nor the quantity of produce raised, nor the number of cattle, horses, or other stock. The quantity of exportable produce may perhaps be inferred with tolerable certainty by adding to the quantity exported the probable local consumption. But the want of information as to the number of acres in crop of each description in the Blue Books of past years, as well as the present Blue Book, prevents any conclusion being formed as to the effect of the immigration in enlarging the area of cultivation or increasing production. In the absence of such returns the rate of production can only be judged of by the export returns, and the Blue Books for the last 10 years give the following information:—

Years.	Number of Immigrants introduced from East and West Indies.	Exportation.		
		Sugar, Hogsheads.	Rum, Puncheons.	Molasses, Puncheons.
1865	7,549	86,110	31,336	14,454
1866	5,170	91,580	30,612	15,180
1867	4,568	82,726	25,517	24,028
1868	3,306	90,029	27,776	25,221
1869	8,388	76,112	21,324	25,638
1870	6,028	94,944	27,169	17,606
1871	3,557	104,310	29,702	14,514
1872	6,620	89,022	24,282	11,083
1873	11,593	95,304	28,484	13,022
1874	7,615	98,750	30,404	18,879
Total - -	64,393	908,887	276,606	179,625
Average - -	6,439	90,888	27,660	17,962

38. It will be seen from this table that there has been the usual fluctuation in the quantity of exports due to favourable or unfavourable seasons, and that on the whole there has been an increase, though not a large one, in the quantity of produce annually raised. This increase will be made more apparent from the following comparison of the total quantities of sugar, &c., exported in the two periods of five years, each extending from 1865 to 1869, both inclusive, and from 1870 to 1874 inclusive:—

Periods.	Sugar, Hogsheads.	Rum, Puncheons.	Molasses, Puncheons,
1865–6–7–8–9	426,557	136,505	104,521
1870–1–2–3–4	482,330	140,041	75,104

The value attached to the exports for the first period of five years collectively was 10,206,523*l.*; the value of the exports for the latter five years was 11,685,523*l.*

39. It is evident, I think, from these tables that it is only by the continued introduction of labour from other countries that the

present production of sugar can be maintained; and, although there are thousands of acres of accessible and fertile land lying waste along the banks of the rivers and creeks of the Colony and on the sea coast, which were once cultivated in sugar or coffee or cotton, but have long been abandoned, there is no present prospect of any great extension of the cultivated area, since the population of the Colony is insufficient to maintain in cultivation the area now under cane.

40. Although there is no second staple of importance, yet considerable numbers of people find employment on cattle farms and in the keeping of cattle, on plantain estates, and in the growth of coffee, rice, and provisions generally, and in the timber trade. Those who engage in these occupations are withdrawn from the sugar estates, and I hope to be able to present some statistics next year, showing the number of people who are engaged in such pursuits. For my own part, I think that every fair encouragement should be given to the cultivation of other articles of export besides sugar, and to the growth of such produce, suitable to the climate and soil, as would tend to make the Colony less dependent for its food upon foreign countries.

41. The only improvement in agriculture noted in the Blue Book is the continued extension of the vacuum-pan system in the manufacture of sugar. I may add that the general adoption on many estates of the process known as "Stewart's system" for the clarification of the cane juice.

Hospitals.

42. I annex to the return of hospitals and asylums the reports of the surgeon-general on the Colonial and Seamen's Hospital in the city of Georgetown, and of Dr. Hackett, the principal medical officer at Berbice, on the hospital and asylums there.

43. The number of patients admitted during the year 1874 into the public hospitals of Georgetown was 5,340, to which is to be added 493 remaining at the end of the preceding year, making a total of no less than 5,833, equal to nearly one-sixth of the entire population of the city, which according to the last census is 36,562. Besides the in-patients 14,438 out-patients were relieved. This added to the number of in-patients, exceeds half the population of the city. The surgeon-general in his report expresses "his "firm belief that many seek admission and medical advice who "have the means to support themselves." This is an abuse of the public charity which ought not to be allowed, but Dr. Manget adds that, "there is great difficulty in discriminating between "those who are really entitled to public relief and those who can "provide assistance for themselves." The power of granting or refusing application for admission into the hospital is entrusted by the Ordinance 19 of 1850 to the surgeon-general and to the resident surgeon of the hospital, and as it is impossible for these officers to know the circumstances of each applicant it follows that all cases really requiring hospital treatment are admitted, payment being afterwards demanded of those who can pay, under a special provision in the Ordinance (clause 16). As long as there is room

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in the hospital there can be no great objection to the admission of patients who are able and willing to pay part or all of the expense they occasion to the public, according to their means, but the number of patients has so increased that according to Dr. Mangets report the wards are over-full, and it will be necessary in order to prevent overcrowding to restrain the number of admissions. The Georgetown Hospital is under the charge, as chief medical officer, of the surgeon-general, in whom is vested the appointment and control of the steward, matron, and all inferior officers and servants. There is a board of directors appointed by the Ordinance whose duties are to make rules and regulations for the government of the hospital, to advertise for tenders for supplies and to settle the terms of all contracts, to order payment of expenses by patients able to pay, and to visit the hospital in rotation. The auditor-general is chairman of the board, and there are 10 directors, four of whom are public officers and the others are chosen from the principal inhabitants of the city.

44. It will be seen from the returns that the mortality in the Colonial Hospital was at the rate of 123 per thousand, but Dr. Manget in referring to this states that no less than 93 patients were received into the hospital in a moribund condition. Omitting these cases altogether the death rate among the other patients was at the moderate rate of 108 per thousand. In the Seamen's Hospital the death rate was only 21 per thousand.

45. The Colonial Hospital at Berbice is a much smaller institution than that in Georgetown. The total number of patients received into it in 1874 was 899, to which is to be added 53 remaining at the beginning of the year, making a total of 952, of whom 150 died, being at the high rate of 157 per thousand. Dr. Hackett in his report remarks that phthisis is a frequent cause of death among the people. The same cause has been noticed in other parts of the Colony, and in the return of the Georgetown hospitals 129 deaths are attributed to this cause alone.

46. The report on the lunatic asylum shows that there were 70 patients admitted during the year, 42 discharged, and 26 died. The number in the asylum at the commencement of the year was 158 and at the close 160. The daily average was 170.

47. The improvements and alterations which were contemplated by my predecessor in this institution were arrested by the sudden death of the medical officer, Dr. Cramer, immediately after his return from a visit of inspection he had made to the lunatic asylums of other colonies. The improvements have since been energetically resumed by Dr. Grieve, whom your Lordship lately appointed, but the record of the efforts he has made to make the asylum a satisfactory and creditable institution belongs to the record of 1875, and must be deferred to the next report.

Criminal Statistics.

48, The criminal statistics show a deplorable abundance of crime. Out of a population estimated at 218,909, 39,965, more than a sixth of the whole, were apprehended by the police or

summoned before the magistrate. In some cases the same person was summoned more than once and the actual number of different persons summoned or arrested is therefore somewhat less than the number given in the Blue Book. Out of the 39,965 cases 10,451 fell through for want of evidence, 5,549 were dismissed on the merits, 336 were reserved for the superior courts, and 23,629 persons were summarily convicted, but of the summary convictions 10,904 were for offences under the Labour Laws or the Immigration Ordinance 7 of 1873, and 12,725 for offences of a more or less criminal character.

Of the 336 cases sent before the superior courts 33 fell through for want of prosecution, one prisoner was found insane, 119 prisoners were acquitted, and 329 convicted. Among the convictions were 15 for murder, other than wife or child murder, two for wife murder, 22 for manslaughter, seven for attempt at murder, and 283 for other crimes against the person and crimes against property. Deducting the offences against the Labour Laws, as not being of a criminal character, it will be seen that no less than 13,054 or nearly six per cent. of the whole population were convicted of crimes against person or property or public order.

49. I append copies of the report of the Superintendent of the convict prison at Massaruni for 1874 and of the Sheriff of Demerara on the prisons in Georgetown for 1874. I have already reported on the special points raised in both these papers, and I am obliged to ask leave to defer a general report on the prisons of the colony until I make the report on the Blue Book for 1875.

Conclusion.

50. The year 1874 was not a prosperous one. The price of sugar was insufficient in many cases to yield a fair profit to the planters, while the expenses of the year were unusually heavy. The immigration from India in the season 1873–4 reached greater proportions than it had ever done before, the cost of introducing the immigrants was very high, and the indenture fee was raised to the enormous sum of 95 dollars a head at which it still remains.

51. I desire to record here two interesting circumstances. One which I have already brought to your Lordship's notice, is the commencement of a church in Georgetown in connexion with the Church of England for the special use of Christian Chinese. This church was completed and opened for service in the present year 1875. It was built by voluntary subscription in which the Chinese converts liberally joined. The other is the apparently successful propagation of the great Australian tree the Eucalyhtus Globulus, which has on several estates attained a height of five or six feet and appears to flourish well, and which I hope may fulfil some of the expectations which have been formed of its usefulness.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. R. LONGDEN.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

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REPORT of the COLONIAL SURGEON-GENERAL on the COLONIAL HOSPITAL of DEMERARA and ESSEQUEBO.

Georgetown Public Hospital,
25th August 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE very little to add to my report of last year with regard to the public hospitals in this city.

By the return for 1874 it will be seen that the numbers of admission have increased, as well as the out-door patients, to whom medical advice and medicines were given. The diseases are the same, and the causes of such diseases identical with those of 1873. The cases which are admitted present the same features, and most of them are due principally to want of the ordinary necessaries of life. In a great many instances the patients present themselves in the last stage of disease, offering very little hope of ultimate recovery.

It will be observed that there were 93 moribund cases taken in, which increased materially the per-centage of mortality. There are a good many old incurable cases which will be removed to the new addition to the Almshouse as soon as that institution can receive them, thus lessening the over-crowding of the general hospital, the wards of which are at present over full.

I cannot hold out any hope of a decrease in the number of admissions, as the people seem to me to be getting poorer and poorer every day, and are reluctant and unable to help themselves when taken ill. Some years ago there was a wholesome repugnance to accept medical aid from the hospital; but every one seems now inclined to have recourse to the help afforded by the public charities of the Colony. I am sorry to say that I firmly believe that many seek admission and medical advice who have the means to support themselves. There is, however, great difficulty in discriminating between those who are really entitled to public relief and those who can provide assistance. The number of out-door patients grows larger every year. There were in 1874, 14,438 out-door patients, being 2,874 more than in 1873.

The Port of Georgetown continues to be very healthy. There are very few patients in the Seaman's Hospital, and the mortality is excessively small.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. A. MANGET, M.D.,
Surgeon-General.

The Hon. C. P. Austin,
Acting Government Secretary.

REPORT of VISITING PHYSICIAN, on the PUBLIC HOSPITAL, &c., &c., BERBICE.

New Amsterdam, Berbice,
21st October 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit, for his Excellency's information, the following general report for the year 1874, relative to the hospital, lunatic asylum, and almshouse in this county.

The report will, of necessity, contain but little new matter, inasmuch as the improvements suggested by his Excellency will not be realised before the end of this quarter. The drainage of the grounds common to the three institutions has been completed, with the exception of a very small piece to leeward of the male lunatic asylum buildings, which I believe will be undertaken and finished immediately.

The work has been well done, and the surface water during the heaviest weather is quickly taken off.

The appearance and comfort of the place have been greatly improved by it; the swamp grass has nearly died out, and its place taken over by a short green grass, affording far less shelter to mosquitos.

There remained, on the 31st December 1873, 53 patients under treatment: males 42, females 11, &c., &c. The following will explain:—

—	Number remaining in Hospital at the end of Dec. 1873.	Number admitted during the Year 1874.	Patients			
			Discharged			Number died.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Incurable.	
Males -	42	734	408	186	34	111
Females -	11	165	72	37	11	39
Total -	53	899	480	223	45	150

There were treated during the year, as out-door patients, 1,930 cases.

Phthisis is now a very frequent cause of death amongst the class of people seeking relief from the hospital here. No fewer than 25 deaths from that cause occurred among the in-door patients, and a great many of the out-door cases suffer from phthisis in its primary stage.

The town of New Amsterdam sends the majority of sick and among them the cases of phthisis.

The sanitary state of the town is far from being in a satisfactory condition. The internal drainage is very defective; the drains are choked up with dirt, and in many places form large cesspools, containing putrid matter of all sorts, giving rise to pernicious exhalations, which cannot but affect the health of those living within their influence.

House accommodation is scarce, and consequently rents are high, and overcrowding is the result. I have known four or five grown up people to live and sleep in a room 12 feet square, with very little ventilation, and that was obtained chiefly from the dilapidated condition of the building.

The diet of the people consists almost entirely of salt fish, rice, and plantains. Fresh meat is very seldom eaten by them.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The tenements have neither vats nor latrines attached to them. The latter comfort is always placed (when there is one connected) over an open drain.

The water used for drinking is obtained from a large trench at the back part of the town, and during a long dry season it becomes quite unfit for drinking purposes, and when it is used gives rise to dysentery and diarrhœa.

With such defective hygiène, it is not surprising that a high mortality should be present here, and it must continue to exist until a change for the better is undertaken by those in authority. The task is not a very difficult one, for the height of the town above low-water mark admits of quick and thorough drainage. In fact, the town lands are capable of being made as clean and healthy as any piece of reclaimed swamp land can be made.

Lunatic Asylum.

	Number remaining in Asylum at the end of Dec. 1873.	Number admitted during the Year 1874.	Patients died and discharged.	
			Discharged.	Died.
Males - -	85	43	28	8
Females - -	73	27	14	18
Total - -	158	70	42	26

The two new buildings intended for the male department will not be finished before the beginning of the year.

The new building for the female department has not yet been commenced. More accommodation is urgently required in both departments, but particularly so in the female department.

Almshouse.

The extension of the almshouse and the detached ward for the treatment of special cases will soon be finished and fit for reception of applicants, and will be quite large enough for the requirements of the town and county of Berbice.

I look forward with pleasure to report for 1875, as all the requirements will then be completed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAS. S. HACKETT, M.D.,
Visiting Physician, Public Hospital,
Berbice.

TRINIDAD.

No. 6.

Governor IRVING, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Trinidad, July 24, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following remarks on the Trinidad Blue Book for 1874:—

Taxes, Duties, &c.

No change was made during the year 1874 in the taxation of the Colony.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The general revenue for 1874, omitting items of account, amounted to 276,529*l.*; the expenditure to 294,006*l.*, showing an excess of expenditure over revenue of 18,477*l.* The expenditure of the year, however, included an outlay of 64,068*l.* on buildings, roads, wharves, and bridges. The amount actually available for public works from the revenue of the year was 45,581*l.*, and the additional expenditure of 18,477*l.* has been met from the surplus balances of the Government. These balances, notwithstanding this draft upon them, amounted on the 31st December 1874 to 45,533*l.*

The financial condition of the Colony is highly satisfactory; the annual revenue is sufficient to provide, not only for the ordinary and necessary expenses of the Government, but also to admit of an average expenditure on public works of about 50,000*l.* a year; and the available balances of the Government are at a level higher perhaps than it is absolutely necessary to maintain them to provide against exceptional or unforeseen emergencies.

Local Revenues.

The revenues of the several ward unions into which the island is divided amounted for the year 1874 to 38,350*l.* The balances of these revenues, after providing for the local establishments and pauper and other local expenditure, are applied to the maintenance of the roads of the several wards. The gross amount so applied in 1874 was 21,137*l.* Adding this sum to the expenditure on public works from the general revenue and surplus balances, the total outlay on public works for the year was 86,000*l.*; omitting appropriations from surplus funds, the expenditure on public works from revenue, general and local together, was a little under 70,000*l.*, a sum which may be regarded as the average amount likely to be available annually for the maintenance of the existing roads and buildings and for new works.

TRINIDAD.

Public Debt.

The sum of 100,000*l.* was borrowed in 1874 as the first instalment of a 5 per cent. debenture loan of 150,000*l.* for the construction of a railway from Port of Spain to Arima. The loan is redeemable in 36½ years by annual drawings. The debentures were issued in England at a slight premium.

The last instalment of a loan of 125,000*l.*, raised in 1852 under Imperial guarantee for immigration purposes, was paid off in 1874, and the debt is extinguished.

The other items of public debt shown in the Blue Book, amounting in the aggregate to 47,550*l.*, represent loans which, though secured on the general revenue, have been raised for local purposes, and are repayable from local revenues. The obligation of the Government in relation to these loans is that of a guarantor.

Public Works.

The railway from Port of Spain to Arima is being executed under contract, and its cost is defrayed from the proceeds of a loan raised for the purpose. The line is a little over 16 miles in length, and its estimated cost, including rolling stock, is 150,000*l.* Satisfactory progress was made with the work during the year, and there is every prospect of its being successfully completed within the amount of the estimate.

43,825*l.* was spent on works and buildings, of which the following are the principal items:—

	£
Governor's residence - - -	15,925
Court-house and police barracks, Port of Spain - - - -	15,472
Court-house and barracks, San Fernando	3,409

The expenditure under the head of roads, wharves, and bridges amounted to 20,243*l.*, and includes the following items:—

	£
Wharf extension, San Fernando - -	4,829
Iron bridge over the Guaracara river -	7,540
Wooden bridge over the Caroni at Tampuna - - - - -	625

The remaining expenditure under both heads was incurred chiefly in ordinary repairs and minor works.

Legislation.

The legislation of the year is embodied in 19 Ordinances, of which the following are the titles:—

No. 1. For assimilating the Laws against Offences relating to the Coin to the Laws of England.

No. 2. To amend the Law of Arrest.

No. 3. To empower the Mayor and Burgesses of San Fernando to make Byelaws for regulating the use of the San Fernando Tramroad.

No. 4 is the supplemental Appropriation Ordinance for 1873.

No. 5. To empower the Board of Commissioners of the Cipero Tramway to contract with the Colonial Company, Limited, for certain purposes.

No. 6. To enable the Commissioners appointed under the Ordinance No. 18 for 1863, intituled "An Ordinance for raising the "sum of 7,000*l.* for the uses of the South Nap Arima Western "Ward," to distribute the sum of 256*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* among the proprietors of estates mentioned in the Second Schedule to the said Ordinance.

No. 7. For the election of Deputy Mayors.

No. 8. To enable the Supreme Civil Court, or any Judge thereof, to sit in Bankruptcy during the vacation.

No. 9. For giving a further opportunity to apply for advances of money for the Improvement of the Town of Port of Spain.

No. 10. With respect to the Petty Civil Court in Port of Spain.

No. 11. With respect to the mode in which the Small-pox Epidemic "General Health Rate" is to be raised and paid.

No. 12. Respecting Appeals from Decisions under the Ordinance "For providing a summary Remedy against Persons "deserting their Wives and Children."

No. 13. To amend the Petroleum Ordinance, 1872.

No. 14. To authorise the Importation of certain Foreign Reprints.

No. 15. For giving facilities for the Manufacture of Cordials and other Compounds.

No. 16. For abbreviating Legal Phraseology.

No. 17. For raising Funds in aid of Immigration for the year 1875.

No. 18. To make provision for defraying those expenses of the Government of this Colony for the year 1875, of which the amount is not already fixed, or the payment not duly authorised.

No. 19. To continue an Ordinance with regard to the management and disposal of Crown lands.

These Ordinances are for the most part such as to call for no comment in this report. The first, however, on the list abolishes a somewhat singular practice which had prevailed here in connexion with the coinage. It had been the custom among the petty shopkeepers to stamp some of the coins, the copper ones principally, with certain letters, and these coins were received in payment for goods at the shops from which they were issued at an enhanced value, while the fact of their defacement might render them of no current value elsewhere. Unscrupulous dealers thus obtained a hold upon the possessors of these coins, which it is easy to imagine was often used as a means of extortion. These defaced coins as well as the old copper coins have been withdrawn, and are now prohibited from circulation.

TRINIDAD.

Civil Establishment.

The following are some of the principal changes which occurred in the fixed establishment :—

Mr. Longden left for Demerara at the end of March, and Mr. W. W. Cairns assumed the government on the 2nd April, but shortly afterwards resigned.

I was appointed to succeed him, and arrived in the Colony in November.

The administration of affairs between Governor Cairns' departure and my assumption of the government devolved, in pursuance of the terms of the Queen's Commission held by Mr. Cairns, on the Colonial Secretary, Mr. I. Scott Bushe. A special commission to administer the Government in the absence of Mr. Longden and Mr. Cairns had previously been issued to Mr. Bushe.

The Attorney-Generalship became vacant by the retirement of Mr. George Garcia on a pension, and the appointment was conferred on Mr. Henry Ludlow, who arrived in Trinidad in July.

Mr. Robert D. Mayne was appointed stipendiary magistrate of Port of Spain, and arrived in September. The duties of this magistracy during the year, September 1873 to September 1874, were performed by Mr. Wilson.

In consequence of the death of Mr. Cockerton, Commissioner of the Petty Civil Court in Port of Spain, the duties of that office were by Ordinance transferred to Mr. Justice Fitzgerald, the Senior Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, and the Commisionership as a separate office was thereby abolished.

Mr. R. W. S. Mitchell, Sub-Intendant of Crown Lands, was appointed Emigration Agent for the Colony in India. He was succeeded by Mr. James O'Connor, the magistrate and warden of the Loco ward union, who was in turn succeeded by Mr. L. P. Pierre, formerly clerk of the peace in Port of Spain.

Mr. C. C. Knollys was appointed sub-receiver and harbour master at San Fernando in the room of Mr. Charles Bushe, deceased.

The magistracy of Cedros became vacant by the retirement on a pension of Mr. T. W. Fuller, and the appointment was conferred on Mr. Charles Huggins, one of the clerks of the peace.

Mr. Meagher, the Superintendent of Public Works, received an appointment in St. Lucia, and left the Colony in December. The Department was thereupon reorganised, and is now under the direction of Mr. J. E. Tanner, C.E.

Dr. Stuckey resigned the office of house surgeon of the Colonial Hospital, and was succeeded by Dr. Lea.

Two vacancies occurred in the landing waiters' department, one by the death of Mr. J. Richards, the other by the retirement on a pension of Mr. H. Hicks. These have been filled by the promotion of junior officers in the service.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of the imports into Trinidad during 1874 is stated in the Customs return to be 1,342,992*l.*, as against 1,324,432*l.* in 1873, showing an increase of 18,560*l.*, or 1·4 per cent. on the previous year's return.

It will be noticed that there has been a falling off in the amount of the goods imported from the United Kingdom, the East Indies, and the British West Indies, while there has been an increase in the trade between British North America and Trinidad.

The figures are as follows :—

	1873.	1874.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	562,318	488,619	—	73,699
East Indies - - -	64,555	53,030	—	11,525
B. N. America - - -	60,227	69,013	8,786	—
B. West Indies - - -	120,352	118,149	—	2,203

The above table shows a diminution in the import trade with British countries to the extent of 78,641*l.*

As regards foreign countries the principal supply business seems to have been carried on with the United States, the value of the imports from that place reaching the sum 268,939*l.*

Venezuela comes next on the list in point of figures, the imports amounting to 229,062*l.*, but of this "gold" is credited with 190,535*l.*, and as no duty is charged on this article, which is merely received here in transitu, the Treasury derives no benefit from the importation.

The other countries whence the principal supplies were derived are enumerated below, and for the sake of comparison the value of the importations of 1873 and 1874 are recorded.

	1873.	1874.
	£	£
France - - - - -	65,309	73,229
Germany - - - - -	3,164	7,326
Spain - - - - -	12,506	12,555
Teneriffe - - - - -	2,073	1,186
Argentine Confederation - - -	770	3,563
French West Indies - - - -	7,607	13,957
Spanish „ - - - -	2,164	2,839
Danish „ - - - -	10,307	650
Brazil „ - - - -	4,590	37

The total value of the exports from Trinidad in 1874 was 1,412,260*l.* (in 1873 it was 1,733,615*l.*).

Of this, 996,081*l.* represented goods which were the produce and manufactures of the Colony, the balance, 416,179*l.*, being the value of British, foreign, and other colonial produce and manufactures received here and re-exported.

TRINIDAD.

The total quantity of sugar exported was 99,739,550 lbs., or 890,531 cwt., and was valued at 668,831*l.* The bulk of the crop, or 93,536,330 lbs., went to Great Britain. The United States served as a market for 4,944,600 lbs., and Canada for 1,236,000 lbs.

The quantity of sugar exported in 1873 is stated in the Blue Book of that year to have been 1,191,866 cwt., representing a value of 973,774*l.*

This gives an excess in the shipments of 1873 of 301,335 cwt. over the shipments of 1874.

The export of molasses and rum, the other produce of the sugar cane, was as under.

	1873.	1874.
	galls.	galls.
Molasses - - - - -	1,624,998	1,697,131
Rum - - - - - -	16,644	39,761

There was of course a much larger quantity of rum manufactured, but as it was consumed in the island, it is not included in this return.

The quantity of cocoa produced in the Colony, and shipped in 1874, was 9,396,531 lbs., as against 7,482,091 lbs. exported in 1873.

There was a slight increase in the coffee trade, the figures being 35,676 lbs. in 1874, 22,225 lbs. in 1873.

The number of cocoa nuts exported has varied but little. In 1873 it was 2,380,871, in 1874 2,286,295.

The above constitute the main products of the island, for although timber abounds in the forests it does not form an article of export.

Nine thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight tons of asphalte were exported during the year. This article is obtained from the Pitch Lake at La Brea. Portions of the lake are held on lease from the Government by private persons, and a small duty is levied on the asphalte exported.

Prisons and Crime.

The buildings at the Royal Gaol have been improved by the erection of a stone wall, separating the female from the male prisoners' labour yard, and separate working cells have been constructed for the females. Two new wards have been added to the Chaguanos convict depôt, increasing the nnmber of separate cells from 26 to 86.

The mark system introduced under the rules brought in by Governor Longden is reported by the Superintendent of Prisons to have worked well.

With the exception of occasional murders amongst the indentured immigrant population (arising almost invariably out of disputes about their women), there is little serious crime in

Trinidad. Of 13,036 persons brought in 1874 before the stipendiary magistrates (whose power of punishment is limited to six months' imprisonment), 113 only were prosecuted in the Supreme Criminal Court, of whom 25 were acquitted, leaving a total of 88 offenders sentenced during the twelve months to terms of more than six months' imprisonment.

The total number of persons brought before the magistrates in 1873 was 12,534, and the number prosecuted in the Supreme Criminal Court was 175. The numbers committed to the Royal Gaol were,—

In 1873 - - - -	2,649
In 1874 - - - -	3,373
Increase in 1874 - -	724

The prison is recruited mainly from the idle and dissolute classes which infest the town of Port of Spain, and which supply a fruitful crop of habitual offenders, male and female, who are constantly in and out of prison for drunkenness, obscene language, disorderly conduct, petty larcenies, &c. The same parties appear before the police magistrate over and over again, and the records of the court show that instances of as many as 10, 12, or 15 previous convictions are by no means uncommon.

The discipline of the gaol has hitherto been too little severe to have any terrors for these people; but new rules are now being adopted to render imprisonment for this class of offenders more severely penal as regards dietary, labour, and strict separation, and consequently it may be hoped somewhat more deterrent in its effect than it has been heretofore.

Conclusion.

The business of the Colony in 1874 was somewhat interfered with by excessive rains, which curtailed the sugar crop and interrupted the communications of the country. The year, however, closed with favourable prospects for the ensuing season, which have been fulfilled by the production in 1875 of the largest crop of sugar the island has known.

The Colony was free from epidemic disease or disaster of any kind, and nothing occurred to check the steady advance in prosperity which has characterised the history of Trinidad of late years.

I have, &c.

The Right Honourable (Signed) HENRY T. IRVING.
The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c.

TOBAGO.

TOBAGO.

No. 7.

Administrator FREELING to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Barbados, August 16, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Tobago for the past year, 1874, together with the usual Report of the Lieutenant-Governor thereon.

2. With reference to Mr. Ussher's remark in paragraph 29 of his Report, that "an arrangement for the transfer of our lunatics "to the Barbados Asylum might be effected upon reasonable "terms to the Colony," I regret to have to state that I see no prospect of carrying out this desirable arrangement until the new asylum, at present in contemplation, shall be completed.

I have, &c.

The Right Honourable (Signed) S. FREELING,
The Earl of Carnarvon, Administrator.
&c. &c.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The comparative table shows but an insignificant increase in the revenue, but it indicates a marked improvement in the expenditure, which is about 1,750*l.* in diminution of that of 1873, and which is principally owing to the observance of strict economy on the part of the Executive. This economy was rendered necessary by the continued failure of harvest, which affected the finances of the Colony until the latter part of the year, when the promise (since fulfilled) of an abundant crop for 1875 infused new spirit into the depressed planters, and gave hopes of increased revenue to the Colony, and a release from its liabilities.

2. Although the island has no public debt, strictly so-called, the rapid decrease of revenue caused the Treasury to fall into arrears with regard to its current accounts, and periodical payments; and these deficiencies fell with severity upon the officials of the Colony, who were frequently without pay for considerable periods, and had even then to discount their pay-warrants in the town of Scarborough. It is satisfactory to know that this state of affairs is coming to an end, and that I may safely assert that by the end of March 1876 this Colony will be entirely free from pressure, without having had recourse to a loan, or infringed upon the "Immigration Fund" of some 3,600*l.*, which lies intact in the Colonial Bank at Barbados.

3. The export tax of one dollar per hogshead upon sugar, voluntarily imposed by the planters upon their own body for purposes of immigration, was suspended at the commencement of 1874 and 1875; but I have no doubt that it will be re-imposed in 1876.

Legislation.

4. A few of the measures passed during this year were of considerable importance. Those which deserve notice were briefly glanced at in my Report for 1873, and a reference to that Report will show a saving of upwards of 800*l.* per annum to have been effected by the following measures, viz.:—

"The Act to unite the Offices of Provost Marshal General and "Inspector of Police."

"The amended Road Act."

"The Act to amend and simplify the Legislature of the Island "of Tobago."

5. Of these the latter merits especially a lengthened notice. For some years past various schemes had been mooted for the abolition of the cumbrous constitution of the Elective Assembly and Legislative Council; but, owing to the division of parties, they were not brought forward. The dissolution of the Lower House in 1873 enabled the electors to return a body of members sufficiently compact and united in opinion to ensure, if supported by the Government members in the House, the success of any reasonable measure for condensing and concentrating the legislative bodies. The measure thus brought in and introduced by a private member, although with the avowed support of the Government, was carried by a large majority in the Lower House, and by the unanimous vote of the Legislative Council. Many of those who voted for it did so in a spirit of self-abnegation deserving of high praise, as they lost both position and emoluments by so doing. The Bill provides that the Governor shall nominate six members, three of whom may be officials, while eight members are elected by the island parishes and the town of Scarborough, thus forming a House of 14 members, with a fair Government element, as against two bodies of 23 legislators. The Executive Committee is temporarily retained, but has been reduced to two members, of whom one shall be a nominated and the other an elective member, and who shall represent the policy and opinion of the Government in the House. This enactment was objected to by some members as inconsistent with the absolute share given to the Government party by the concession of the six nominees; but the Executive Committee had under local enactments many and various duties to perform, and the abrogation of these enactments would have been inconvenient, and would have impeded the progress of the Bill. The salary of these officers is now only 50*l.* per annum. The Bill further remodels and provides for the appointment and salary of the Colonial Secretary, appointing him also Auditor of the Colony.

6. The measure, although opposed by a small party at the time of passing, now gives general satisfaction, and appears to work harmoniously and well even to those who at the outset were its declared opponents; and the deliberations of the new chamber have been marked by rapidity and moderation, and are in marked contrast with the tedious, and at times factious, proceedings under the old constitution.

TOBAGO.

Councils and Assemblies.

7. The Privy Council has been increased by the accession of Mr. William McCall to Executive Committee.

8. The "Act to amend and simplify the Legislature" has resulted in the following arrangements, as against those under the old constitution. The appointment of the Attorney-General, the Colonial Secretary, and the surgeon to the gaol as official nominees; of Messrs. J. H. Keens, John McCall, and Lloyd Abbott as non-official nominees; and to these must be added eight new members elected by the constituencies, viz., Messrs. James McCall, William McCall, Hampden Pile, S. B. Isaacs, R. McEachnie, R. B. Anderson, G. Macdougall, and James Kirk; Messrs. Gordon and Berkeley, members of the late Legislative Council, no longer sit in the legislative body. The Attorney-General and Mr. William McCall form the Executive Committee.

Civil Establishments.

9. The death of Mr. William Yeates, the harbour master, created a vacancy which has since been filled by the selection of Mr. Spicer, who has had many years practical experience of navigation in and about Tobago.

Population.

10. The general increase is satisfactory, and the death rate among adults moderate. But the mortality amongst infants still continues, and will continue until an improved system of registration and medical district or parochial supervision be established. It is absolutely incumbent upon the Legislature to act in this matter promptly and efficiently.

Ecclesiastical.

11. I have pleasure in stating, both from my own observation and from reports made to me, that the pecuniary state of the Anglican Church is vastly improved; and that not only does it appear to be clearing itself rapidly of all debt, but that it evinces an energy for which I was not prepared. My last Report under this head was rather gloomy; and it is pleasant to know that my anticipations are not likely to be fulfilled. There can be no doubt that the Anglican Church will shortly enjoy, if it does not already receive, a larger revenue than that of which it was partially deprived by the Disestablishment Act of 1873.

12. An unfortunate dispute in one of the leeward parishes threatened at one time to imperil the unity which is necessary to the development of the resources of the Church in its present position; but the departure from the island of one of the incumbents, together with the moderate and discreet action of the Bishop has effectually smoothed over these difficulties.

13. St. Mary's Church is now being rebuilt; and I understand that a sum of money is being gradually collected to form a fund

for the purchase of rectories and glebes for the island rectors. It is hoped that by this means an efficient class of clergy will be attracted to the Colony.

Agriculture.

14. One of the things most to be regretted in Tobago is the obstinate adherence of both planters and labourers to the one staple produce, viz., sugar and its collateral products, rum and molasses. The love for sugar-cane cultivation is easily explained, as far as regards the negro labourer. It is a pleasant agriculture to him, and one to which he is from childhood accustomed; while the many little perquisites which he obtains during the manufacture of the cane into sugar give it in his mind the preference over all others. And, doubtless, until he shall be better educated, not by precept, but by example, he will continue so to do. The example, however, should come from the large, and wealthier islands. It is pretty evident that, in spite of the outcry amongst West India planters, the cultivation of the cane is still a highly profitable employment, and one good season, probably, goes far to recoup the planter for former losses.

15. Such a season we have had and are now enjoying. The canes reaped this year (1875), and shipped to England, will probably amount to little less than 7,000 hogsheads, or something short of that number of tons, with their proportionate accompaniment of rum and molasses. Nevertheless many hogsheads will be left on the ground. The causes for this latter fact are easy to find.

16. Labour is sufficiently plentiful in Tobago, but is not always available; and, as I have before observed, the negroes are not steady workers upon daily wages as a rule. These wages in Tobago are rather small in money; but Tobago planters, as part wages, give to all their proletarians practically as much provision ground as they may desire to cultivate, and so profitable is this cultivation that, as soon as the weather begins to break up, no power can keep them from these provision grounds, of course to the detriment of the ripe canes, ready for cutting.

17. The introduction of the "métayer" system into the island has been perhaps on the whole a boon to both planters and labourers, and had union existed at the outset amongst the planters (as it practically does amongst the labourers), nothing but good could have resulted from it. As it is, many estates have been redeemed by it. The only drawback to it, at present existing, is the said absence of union (and consequently of systematic relations with their métayers) amongst the planters. The only remedy to this, in my opinion, would be legislation; the creation of an Act by which the employer and the labourer might be easily bound, without the slightest interference with any special contract which either might prefer to make. As things now stand, in most cases a métager takes up a portion of land from an owner without a special agreement, and merely upon the understanding of the custom in snch cases supposed to prevail.

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But disputes are sure to arise, especially with weak and irresolute planters, and those whose want of capital, or perhaps impartial dealing, may have failed to attach the cultivator personally to them. When these disputes, as I regret to say they now almost invariably do, come before magistrate or judge, they must necessarily be settled at haphazard, and according to some existing law which may appear to bear most closely upon the special case, such as laws affecting contracts, land tenure, or the relations between masters and servants; and in the absence of written agreements, I believe the "custom," or practice, between métayers and planters is generally ignored by judicial officers, who have delivered judgments probably irrespective of certain important considerations not defined by law, for which, however they could not be blamed, in the absence of precedent or legislation, for ignoring litigation on this subject is becoming frequent, and in some parts of the Colony is mischievous and highly injurious to planters working estates partly or wholly on the métayer system.

19. Another reason for the inability of some planters to take off their crop is their insufficient machinery, and another their deficiency in stock and cattle, added to the ignorant and unskilled treatment frequently employed in their management whilst performing constant and arduous labour.

20. The establishment of a central factory engaged my attention during my stay in England; and my exertions to introduce it here by means of a joint stock company have been unremitting. Unfortunately my time was ill chosen, and I had many difficulties to contend against, not the least of which were the disclosures made regarding certain large speculations in 1874–5, which were not calculated to induce the general public to look kindly upon undertakings of this description. The scheme has so far the elements of success, that large proprietors in the island warmly espoused it, and were ready to take shares in it; and I yet have hopes that it may be established, sooner or later. It is a question that must command the attention of the Government in a greater degree than heretofore.

Imports and Exports.

21. These show but little difference from 1873; a slight improvement being perceptible.

Gaols.

22. The gaol accommodation is insufficient and inadequate. It is simply impossible to carry out the classifying system in its integrity. I much regret this fact, but it cannot be remedied, except by additional accommodation and improved supervision; both of these are at present out of our reach.

23. The punishment of whipping is not frequently inflicted; but in spite of many high authorities against me, I should be sorry to see its total abolition. In cases of obeah and confirmed

insubordination with violence, I fear it is the only deterrent at present available.

Criminal Statistics.

24. I am indebted to His Honour the Chief Justice for the present accurate statement under this head.

25. There is a noticeable improvement under the head of "Prœdial Larceny," a diminution of from 135 cases in 1873 to 61 in 1874; illustrating the strong influence beneficially exercised by the expectations of good crops, and consequently of increased employment to labourers.

Hospitals

26. The hospital remains but half completed, owing to want of funds.

27. An address of the Legislature this year (1875) to the Lieutenant-Governor prays for its completion and adaptation to the purposes of both a pauper asylum and a hospital; and, as far as the sum voted will warrant, it is now in progress with that object. Its rather excessive size justifies the combination thus recommended.

Lunatic Asylum.

28. There is no asylum for lunatics at present; violent cases being confined in a portion of the gaol under the superintendence of the surgeon.

29. I think that an arrangement for the transfer of our lunatics to the Barbados Asylum might be effected upon reasonable terms to the Colony.

General Remarks.

30. The condition of the Colony is promising. Capital and labour are yet largely required to develop its resources. The establishment of the central factory would do much towards this end. And the gradual and judicious employment of the "Immigration Fund" will tend to acquaint West Indian labourers with the great advantages enjoyed by industrious men in this little Colony.

31. Taxation is extremely light; it does not amount to more than 12*s.* 6*d.* per head of the population throughout, and but little of this falls upon the negro. With land easy of acquisition, and abundant employment should he care for it, the labourer can speedily become rich.

32. The reputed unhealthiness of the climate is a mistake. Its bad reputation originally arose from the per-centage of deaths amongst European troops in old times, when hard lives were led by reckless and thoughtless men. The health of Europeans at present is remarkably good. I do not remember a case of yellow fever during my stay; nor have we suffered from any epidemic.

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The efficiency of sanitary regulations can scarcely be said to have conduced to this, for but little attention is paid to them.

33. Tobago enjoys extreme fertility, and the rainfall is plentiful. With by no means a high class of cultivation, the produce made this year from insignificant patches of land was surprising even to residents. Three hogsheads per acre was commonly obtained; in exceptional cases more. I was informed that one canefield of 16 acres produced 45 hogsheads this year; the estimate having been about 30. Cattle and horses, mules and asses, thrive well and the ponies of the island, which are abundant, are hardy and cheap.

34. It must be admitted that many reforms are still wanting. I am of opinion that legal process here is mostly cumbrous and unsuitable; and that a simpler code of judicature might be framed to meet all the requirements of Tobago.

35. Many of the colonial officers deserve better salaries; and the pittances accorded to revenue officers and stipendiary magistrates are inadequate from every point of view, and might lead to great evils. A small staff of parochial or district medical practitioners is urgently required. The road system, although improved by a recent Bill, is defective. The whole of this work, as well as public buildings, requires a colonial engineer acting under the executive; and instead of allowing each male of the population the choice of commuting his road tax, or of working it out in labour, it would be more productive and more efficient were the taxation for this purpose indiscriminately levied, and labour regularly employed and paid for at the times and in the manner most suited to the requirements of the colony, and not at the discretion or convenience of the agricultural body.

36. The loss to the island of its fortnightly mail steamer is a serious one. Temporary arrangements have been made for the conveyance hither from Barbados of the postal bags; but I am not without hope that a small subsidy will yet induce the company to replace the second steamer.

37. In conclusion, I am glad to report that I see marked signs of improvement throughout the Colony; and should the next year justify our present anticipations, Tobago should be able to make the reforms and improvements necessary for its reputation with its sister colonies, as well as for its local material interests.

H. T. USSHER,
Lieutenant-Governor.

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No. 8.

Administrator Dix to The Administrator in Chief.

Government Office, Castries,
August 28, 1875.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose to your Excellency my report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1874, which, for the reasons given in my despatch to Governor Rawson, of the 18th May last, did not accompany the Blue Book which was forwarded at that time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) Macnamara Dix,
Administrator of the Government.

His Excellency
Sanford Freeling, Esq., C.M.G.,
Administrator-in-Chief,
&c. &c.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

1. With the exception that all articles imported for the use of the "St. Lucia Central Sugar Factory" were admitted free of duty, and the vessels importing such articles were exempted from tonnage duty and other port charges, the taxes, import and other duties remained the same as in the year 1873.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The total amount of "general revenue" for the year was 21,131*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, and the total expenditure was 24,268*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* The excess of expenditure over the revenue of the year was defrayed out of the surplus revenue of previous years.

3. The following statement shows the general revenue and expenditure in each of the last three years:—

Revenue.

	£
1872 - - - -	21,052
1873 - - - -	19,907
1874 - - - -	21,131

Expenditure.

	£
1872 - - - -	17,842
1873 - - - -	20,346
1874 - - -	24,268

4. The surplus general revenue at the close of the year was 4,250*l.*

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Local Revenues and Expenditure.

5. The amount of revenue raised in 1874 on account of the several local or special funds was as follows:—

	£
Immigration fund - - -	2,319
Road fund - - - -	2,825
Education fund - - -	642
Harbour dredge fund - - -	135
Casual revenue of the Crown - -	82
Castries town fund - - -	1,172
Towns and villages fund - -	415
Revenue officers' reward fund -	37
Making a total of -	£7,627

6. The amount of expenditure was—

	£
On account of immigration - -	1,213
„ roads and bridges -	4,387
„ education - -	1,152
„ harbour dredge -	360
„ casual revenue - -	63
„ town of Castries -	2,968
„ other towns and villages	198
„ revenue officers' reward	6
Making a total of -	£10,347

The excess in expenditure was met out of the balances to the credit of the respective funds at the commencement of the year.

7. The funds for immigration, roads and bridges, education, and harbour dredge were derived as follows:—for immigration, from an export duty of 4*d.* per 100 lbs. of sugar, 1*s.* per puncheon of rum, and 6*d.* per puncheon of molasses; for roads and bridges, from an export duty of 2*d.* per 100 lbs. of sugar, 2*s.* per puncheon of rum, and 1*s.* per puncheon of molasses, and also from a tax of 6*s.* per annum on all males (with some few exceptions) between the ages of 16 and 60 resident in the Colony; for education, from an export duty of 1*s.* per 100 lbs. of coffee, 6*d.* per 100 lbs. of cocoa, 8*s.* per ton of logwood, 4*s.* per cord of firewood, 2*s.* per barrel of charcoal, and 6*d.* for each hide, also from a tax of 4*d.* per foot of the length of each boat, flat and canoe, and a 5*s.* quarterly license for every hawker of goods; and for the harbour dredge, a tonnage duty of 3*d.* per ton on all vessels loading or unloading cargo at the port of Castries.

8. The whole of these duties and taxes, with the exception of the capitation road tax, have, I am happy to be able to state, been abolished by recent legislation.

9. The fines and fees imposed and collected in the courts of inferior jurisdiction are also carried to the credit of the education fund, which is further supplemented by an annual grant in aid from general revenue of 500*l.*

10. The Castries town funds are derived from a tax upon houses and lots of land within the limits of the town, wharfage and water dues payable by vessels loading or unloading at the port, and from licenses for the sale of various articles of merchandise and for the keep of dogs in the town; and the towns and villages funds, from a tax on the houses and lots of land in the several outlying towns and villages.

11. The revenue officers' reward fund is made up from fines imposed upon the officers, and from the proceeds of seizures and penalties made and recovered by them, and the casual revenue of the Crown from the sales and rents of Crown lands.

12. The amount to the credit of the special funds at the close of the year was 6,651*l.*

Public Debt.

13. The public debt of the Colony in 1874 was nominally 45,000*l.*; namely, 15,000*l.* the amount of the Imperial guaranteed loan contracted in 1854 for immigration purposes, and 30,000*l.* the amount of debentures authorised to be issued by an Ordinance passed in April 1874 to raise funds for the establishment of a central sugar factory. The actual debt, however, was only 18,604*l.*, the sinking fund for the redemption of the 15,000*l.* loan amounting at the close of the year to 10,596*l.*, and the amount of debentures sold being 14,200*l.* only. The Imperial guaranteed loan will be altogether extinguished in June 1880, and a certain number of debenture notes will be paid off annually. The necessary funds for the redemption of both are remitted regularly to the Crown agents for the Colonies.

Public Works.

14. The following important works were undertaken during the year:—The erection of a general hospital to accommodate 80 patients, with surgeons' quarters and other suitable out-offices, improved accommodation for lunatics, and the restoration of the public wharves in Castries. The auxiliary hospitals at Soufrière and Vieuxfort and the annexe to the public buildings in Castries were completed, and sundry repairs to the Royal Gaol and other buildings were effected. The whole expenditure for the above purposes was 6,197*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*

15. The central sugar factory was also commenced. It is being erected in the extensive and fertile valley of Grand Cul-de-Sac. The builders are the well-known firm of Fawcett, Preston, & Co., of Liverpool, who have contracted to complete it by the end of the year 1875. The price contracted for is 90,000*l*

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Legislation.

16. Twelve Ordinances were passed in 1870, of which the following are the most important:—

No. 2 of 1st April 1874, "For the Prevention of cruelty to "Animals." This Ordinance is based upon the Imperial Act. There was previously no law in the Colony to protect animals against cruelty, and the ill-treatment of beasts of burthen and of cattle intended for slaughter having been represented to the Executive by an influentially-signed memorial, the measure was submitted to the Legislature and was unanimously approved.

No. 3 of 1st April 1874, "To make provision for Bank Holidays, "and respecting Obligations to do certain acts on such days." The form of the Act passed in Barbados, with the same object, has been adhered to. The schedule of this Ordinance, however, contains two more holidays than that of the Act from which it is taken. It was found necessary to include the 1st of January and the Feast of Corpus Christi, as they have been observed as holidays in this Colony from the time of the capitulation.

No. 4, 1st April 1874, "To make better provision for securing "the Health of the Inhabitants of this Island." Previous legislation on this head having been found to be ineffective in practice, it was found necessary to repeal existing Ordinances, and to substitute the present enactment, which enables the board of health to appoint officers and to take immediate action in cases of sanitary emergency.

No. 6, 18th April 1874, "To promote the establishment of "Central Sugar Factories, and to authorise the raising of a Loan "for that purpose." One of the features of the central factory scheme, which received the approval of the Secretary of State, was that one fourth of the capital of any company formed for carrying out the scheme should be subscribed by the Colony, the amount to be raised by debentures and secured upon the revenues and general assets of the Colony. It is further provided that the Colony shall pay for two years interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum upon the remaining shares. The capital of the company having been fixed at 100,000*l.*, this Ordinance authorises the raising of 30,000*l.* in the manner above stated, to be applied in payment of the shares subscribed on behalf of the Colony and of the interest during two years on the remaining shares. In order to afford every facility to the company at starting, import duty has been remitted for a period of two years in respect of all articles required in the erection of the company's works, and for carrying on the company's business.

No. 7, 1st June 1874, "To promote Immigration." The object of this measure was to induce immigration into this Colony from Barbados, and to place such immigration under Government control. Certain inducements are held out to the superfluous population of that island, and an engagement is entered into to provide a back passage gratis at the end of a year to any immigrant who can prove that he has during that time earned ten

pounds. The Ordinance contains provisions for facilitating such proof. The provisions of the Ordinance may be applied by the Legislature to other places besides Barbados.

No. 8, 3rd September 1874, "To facilitate the execution of "Public Works, and the acquisition of land required for them." This Ordinance has for its object to compel, under arbitration, private obstructiveness to yield to public advantage, and is similar in its spirit and its scope to the enactments with a like object which have long existed in England and the more advanced colonies.

No. 9, 3rd September 1874, "An Ordinance respecting Actions "by and against Joint Stock and other Companies." This Ordinance gives status in this Colony to joint stock and other companies created or recognised elsewhere. This enactment was necessitated by the formation of the "St. Lucia Central "Sugar Factory Company, Limited."

No. 10, 3rd September 1874, "To ratify and confirm certain "Rules and Orders of the Royal Court." The object of this Ordinance is to confirm certain rules of procedure made by the Chief Justice to be followed in the Royal Court. The object of these rules is to do away with many anomalies, and to simplify the hitherto cumbrous procedure of our law courts.

No. 12, 6th October 1874, "Respecting vacant lands." The original titles to land in this Colony were concessions from the Government; to these concessions were attached certain conditions, the chief of these conditions were that the lands should, within a certain time, be brought into and afterwards maintained in cultivation, otherwise they were to revert to the Crown. Owing to the vicissitudes of repeated capture and internal disorder, the condition was in some cases unfulfilled, or, in many instances, cultivated lands were abandoned by those who had obtained grants. The descendants of the original proprietors have, in certain cases, retained a sort of dormant interest in the grants, and in others the land has been entirely forsaken. Under these circumstances it has become a matter of very great difficulty to ascertain the rights of the Crown in the large tracts of uncultivated land in the Colony. The natural increase of population and wealth has caused a demand for land to spring up, and, in order to protect the Crown in disposing of such lands, it has been found necessary to provide the safeguards embodied in the provisions of this enactment.

Population.

17. The following information is obtained from the returns of the Registrar-General. The population on the 31st December 1874 is estimated at 33,630. The number of births during the year, including 90 still-births, was 1,504, 795 males and 709 females; and the number of deaths 1,046, 578 males and 468 females. Exclusive of still-births, the birth rate per cent. of the population

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was 4·26, and the death rate 2·88. The death rate as above given is made up as follows:—

Children under 1 year - -	·66 per cent.
From 1 to 15 years - -	·88 „
Adults - - - -	1·34 „

18. The table of mortality shows that the number of deaths under one year, not counting still-births as deaths, was 220;

From 1 to 5 years - - -	215
„ 5 „ 10 „ - - -	52
„ 10 „ 15 „ - - -	26
„ 15 „ 20 „ - - -	42
„ 20 „ 30 „ - - -	91
„ 30 „ 40 „ - - -	71
„ 40 „ 50 „ - - -	51
„ 50 „ 60 „ - - -	39
„ 60 „ 70 „ - - -	65
70 years and upwards - - -	84
Total - -	956

19. The following table shows the birth and death rates, including still-births, from 1869, the year in which the system of registration of births and deaths came into operation, to 1874:—

Year.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1869	30,275	1,359	834	4·49	2·75
1870	30,800	1,418	817	4·60	2·65
1871	31,401	1,479	901	4·71	2·87
1872	31,970	1,511	880	4·72	2·75
1873	32,601	1,519	948	4·66	2·90
1874	33,172	1,504	1,046	4·53	3·15

20. The death rate in 1874 was higher than in previous years, which may be accounted for chiefly by the prevalence of dysentry in the town of Soufrière and its environs. The number of deaths in the Soufrière district was 412, considerably more than one third of the deaths in the whole island.

21. A commission of inquiry was issued to ascertain the causes leading to the excessive mortality, and the report went to show that it arose from unwholesome and insufficient food, impure water, and overcrowding in small and badly ventilated apartments.

22. Steps have been taken to enlarge the area of the town for building purposes, and a project for the introduction of purer water is under consideration. The other cause of sickness is beyond Government control, and will, I fear, continue to exist until the people, by sad experience, are brought to see that it is better for them to nourish the body with wholesome food than to deck it with tawdry finery.

23. I regret that I am unable to report any improvement in the morals of the people. The marriages in 1874 numbered 71, as against 169 in the previous year, and of the births 927 were illegitimate against 575 legitimate.

Savings Bank, &c.

24. A savings bank was established in 1871. The advantage it affords for small savings has not, however, been hitherto appreciated. The number of depositors in 1874 was 35; the amount deposited 169*l.* 9*s.*, and the amount withdrawn 95*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* Interest at the rate of three per cent. per annum is allowed on deposits.

Ecclesiastical.

25. The ecclesiastical establishment remains the same as last year. There are 10 Roman Catholic priests and two Protestant ministers. The legislative grant is 1,500*l.*, of which sum 1,100*l.* is paid to the former, and 400*l.* to the latter.

Education.

26. Public education continues to be chiefly imparted in the schools of the Mico Charity, of which there were 11 in different parts of the Colony in 1874. The number of pupils on the rolls during the year was 1,692. The cost of maintaining these schools was 1,559*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, of which sum 600*l.* was contributed by the Colony, and 959*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* was provided by the charity.

27. There were five Roman Catholic schools in operation during the year. The number of pupils on the rolls was 874, and the cost of the schools 571*l.*, the whole of which sum was paid out of public funds.

28. The sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny continue to keep their school for girls; the number of scholars returned in 1874 was 51. There was also another school kept in Castries at which children of both sexes up to the age of eight years were received. The number attending during the year was 44. These schools are maintained by voluntary contributions and fees from the parents of the pupils.

Trade.

29. The following statements exhibit the value of the imports and exports for the last three years:—

Imports.

	£
1872 - - -	151,195
1873 - - -	116,037
1874 - - -	133,006

Exports.

	£
1872 - - -	184,622
1873 - - -	151,011
1874 - - -	146,858

30. The following are the values of the imports and exports from and to the several counties with which trade has been carried on during the year:—

—	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
United Kingdom - - - -	54,041	127,418
British Possessions - - - -	33,603	3,129
France - - - - -	8,797	1,493
French Colonies - - - -	8,564	9,697
United States - - - -	27,683	5,121
Other foreign places - - - -	318	—

31. A considerable quantity of British manufactured goods continues to be imported viâ St. Nazaire.

Shipping.

32. The following statements show the number, tonnage, and crews of vessels entered and cleared at the Port of Castries (the only port of entry and clearance) in the last three years:—

Entered.

—	No.	Tons.	Crews.
1872	255	19,234	1,526
1873	245	18,798	1,434
1874	240	19,393	1,442

Cleared.

—	No.	Tons.	Crews.
1872	274	20,103	1,485
1873	250	18,791	1,443
1874	253	19,254	1,568

33. The Englishand French mail steamers, of which there are four of the former and two of the latter every month, although bringing and taking away cargo, do not come to an entry at the Custom House, consequently their tonnage is not included in the above statements.

Agriculture.

34. Fears were very generally entertained at the commencement of the year that the sugar crop of 1874 would have fallen short of that of 1873. The result, however, has, I am happy to say, far from justified these fears, the crop of last year having exceeded that of 1873 by 1,297,560 lbs. The following statement shows the quantities of produce shipped in the last three years:—

	1872.	1873.	1874.
Sugar - - - lbs.	13,510,850	12,076,500	13,374,060
Molasses - - galls.	257,015	176,800	232,300
Rum - - - ,,	2,723	881	5,973
Cocoa - - - lbs.	246,811	280,473	255,614

35. As the crop season of 1874 was unusually unfavourable for the manufacture of sugar, the frequent rains inducing a diminished yield of crystallizable juice, the increase in the quantity of sugar shipped must be attributed to more extended cultivation.

36. During the year cane culture received an unwonted stimulus from the introduction of the central factory system, Mr. Des Voeux having, by unwearied exertions, succeeded in obtaining the support of capitalists in England, a company was formed early in the year for carrying out the system in this Colony. The company offered assistance to the contributory planters to enable them to cultivate on a larger scale, and the effects are abundantly apparent in the Grand Cul-de-Sac Valley (a hitherto but scantily cultivated tract of land), in which the factory is being erected.

Manufactures.

37. Though individual planters have recognised the necessity of importing machinery for the manufacture of an improved quality of sugar, such isolated efforts appear of small moment when contrasted with the great work with the same object of which this year witnessed the commencement. Preparations for putting up machinery of the most recent and approved description, capable of turning out a minimum of 2,000 tons of crystallized sugar, were in active progress during the latter half of the year. The central factory experiment, involving, as it does, most important issues, is being watched with great interest in this and neighbouring colonies, and its success will mark the year 1874 as having inaugurated a career of vast improvement in the sugar manufacture of St. Lucia.

Gaols and Prisoners.

38. There is only one prison in the island, the "Royal Gaol" in Castries. It contains 10 cells on the ground floor, 12 asso-

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ciated wards in the second story, and three large associated wards in the attic, used for female prisoners. The daily average number in prison during the year was 27, and there was but one death. The total cost of the prison was 408*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*

39. The number of persons committed to prison in 1874 was 360. Of these there were six for debt, 162 for safe custody till trial or for want of security, and 192 for purposes of penal imprisonment, of which number 149 were males, and 43 females.

40. The number of convictions in the superior criminal court was 24, and the number of acquittals 14. In the inferior courts the number of convictions was 827, and the number of acquittals 596.

41. The following statement exhibits the offences and the number of each offence of which the persons were convicted:—

Murder - - - -	1
Rape - - - - -	1
Other offences against the person -	342
Prœdial larceny - - -	24
Other offences against property -	50
Against Masters and Servants Acts -	30
Miscellaneous minor offences - -	403

42. There were extenuating circumstances connected with the murder case, and the prisoner having been recommended to mercy, his sentence was commuted to imprisonment with hard labour for life.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

43. The number of patients in hospital at the beginning of the year was 63, the number admitted during the year 379, and the daily average in hospital 71. The number of deaths was 59, or 13·35 per cent.; the number discharged cured was 254, or 57·47 per cent.; the number relieved 52, and the number not improved six. The number remaining in hospital at the end of the year was 71.

44. The number of persons treated at the dispensaries in 1874 was 3,468, against 1,187 treated in 1873, the year in which the system came fairly into operation. It is satisfactory to see that the people appreciate the great boon which has been conferred upon them by this institution, which no doubt has been the means of alleviating much suffering and saving many valuable lives.

Lunatic Asylum.

45. A more commodious and better adapted place for the reception and care of lunatics than the one previously in use has been provided. It is, however, but a temporary measure, and does not possess the means for pursuing proper curative treatment. It is hoped that ere long the projected scheme of a general asylum at Barbados will be carried out, in which case the lunatics here will be transferred to that institution.

46. The number of inmates at the beginning of the year was 14, and the number admitted during the year was 18. There were three deaths, and four were discharged. Of the 32 patients in the asylum during the year, only three were dangerous lunatics.

47. Everything is done to make these unfortunate people as comfortable as circumstances will permit.

Charitable and Literary Institutions.

48. The following are the charitable institutions in the Colony: —

One general and one auxiliary hospital in the town of Castries.

Two auxiliary or transmitting hospitals: one in the town of Soufrière, the other in the town of Vieuxfort.

One lunatic asylum near Castries, and nine dispensaries, one in each parish of the island.

At all these institutions medicines and medical assistance are gratuitously afforded.

49. There is a public library and reading-room in Castries, and a reading-room in Soufrière. Both receive Government aid, but are chiefly supported by voluntary subscriptions.

General Remarks.

50. The progress in the material prosperity of the Colony during the last few years has been marked. The following comparative tables, exhibiting the results under the several heads mentioned in them in the two quinquennial periods ending respectively in 1869 and 1874, will fully illustrate this:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of REVENUE and EXPENDITURE. The value of Imports and Exports, the amount raised from Import and Export Duty, and the Duty on Rum during the five years 1865 to 1869 and 1870 to 1874.

Year.	General		Imports.	Import Duty.	Exports.	Export Duty.	Rum Duty.
	Revenue.	Expenditure.					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1865	12,727	12,301	70,758	4,709	107,321	1,889	4,024
1866	15,294	15,410	91,505	6,528	109,483	2,293	5,003
1867	13,442	14,296	71,138	5,233	93,832	2,083	4,664
1868	15,346	13,810	97,846	6,611	121,366	2,376	5,390
1869	14,983	13,638	90,965	6,142	118,164	2,738	5,650
	71,792	69,455	422,212	29,223	550,166	11,379	24,731
1870	15,867	14,602	106,285	6,706	147,172	3,255	5,954
1871	18,307	16,980	121,384	8,536	171,461	3,332	6,014
1872	21,052	17,843	151,195	10,348	184,622	3,716	6,614
1873	19,908	20,347	116,037	9,562	151,011	3,426	5,705
1874	21,131	24,268	133,006	9,258	146,858	3,660	7,147
	96,265	94,040	627,907	44,410	801,124	17,389	31,434

ST LUCIA.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the SERVICES for which EXPENDITURE has been materially increased and of New Services, during the five years 1865–69 and 1870–74.

Year.	Expenditure on Public Works.	Roads and Bridger.	Hospitals and Dispensaries.	Number of Patients treated.	Salaries of Medical Men. &c.	Vaccination.	Destruction of Serpents.	Telegraph Subsidy.
	£	£	£		£			
1865	13	581	307	118	346	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
1866	45	413	496	150	424	„	„	„
1867	382	618	581	99	424	50	„	„
1868	332	754	551	78	424	Nil.	„	„
1869	76	660	450	116	507	22	„	„
	848	3,026	2,385	561	2,125	72	—	—
1870	176	1,371	638	176	515	48	327	—
1871	101	917	1,033	257	698	275	43	—
1872	118	1,122	1,098	297	962	76	466	—
1873	1,623	2,514	1,306	1,574	1,047	123	76	780
1874	6,197	3,580	1,337	3,910	1,259	53	522	500
	8,215	9,504	5,412	6,214	4,481	575	1,434	1,280

51. The value of property has also very considerably increased. To cite one or two out of many instances in support of this, I would mention that the "Fond" estate, which was purchased in 1864 for 4,400*l.*, was sold in 1874 for 8,500*l*; and the "Union" estate, purchased in 1866 for 1,500*l.*, was refused to be sold by the owner in 1874 for less than 6,000*l.*

52. A portion of uncultivated Crown land in the valley of Grand Cul-de-Sac was put up for sale at public auction, for which bids were offered at the rate of 7*l.* per acre, but this being considered under its value it was withdrawn. A year or two ago this land would have been considered well sold at 3*l.* per acre.

(Signed) MACNAMARA DIX,
Administrator of the Government.

Government Office, St. Lucia,
August 28, 1875.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 9.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
October 11, 1875.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Montserrat for 1874, with a report thereon from President Porter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon. The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

SIR, Montserrat, September 30, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to forward to His Excellency Governor Berkeley the Blue Book of this Presidency, accompanied by my report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NEALE PORTER,
President.

To His Honour the Colonial Secretary
of the Leeward Islands.

Finance.

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1872	4,477 3 $11\frac{1}{2}$	4,848 5 $8\frac{3}{4}$
1873	4,941 12 $6\frac{3}{4}$	4,704 3 $11\frac{3}{4}$
1874	4,647 15 $9\frac{2}{4}$	5,038 7 $6\frac{3}{4}$

Imperial Post Office receipts and remittances deducted.

The expenditure of 1874 exceeded the revenue by 390*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*; of this excess a large portion is to be attributed to a much needed liberal expenditure on the roads of the Island. During 1874 I responded to the general demand for road improvement by devoting to that important work a part of the considerable cash reserve of this Presidency. The expenditure on vaccination also largely exceeded the amount estimated. With respect to revenue, import duty and fees gave less than the amounts estimated.

The deficiency in the amount from fees was owing principally to judicial disarrangements and delays attendant on a change of

MONTSERRAT. system, and borne by the inhabitants of Montserrat with a patience and good temper at once remarkable and commendable.

On some heads receipts went beyond the amounts estimated. The general result under all heads showed 118*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* less than the aggregate sum of estimated revenue. This Island has no public debt. The final instalment due to the Imperial Government on the Earthquake Loan of 1843 was paid in 1873.

Trade.

—	Imports.	Exports.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1872	27,667 12 11	29,736 4 0
1873	20,700 6 10	36,783 15 0
1874	23,937 17 0	33,079 5 0

It will be seen that the general movement of external trade in each of these years reached almost precisely the same total, viz., about 56,000*l.*

Of the imports four-fifths came from British Colonies, and four-fifths of these four-fifths were supplied from Barbados. Of the exports nine-tenths went to the United Kingdom.

Agriculture.

Insignificant with respect to territory, population, commerce, and revenue, as this little island is, even in comparison with most of the other small possessions of the Crown in these seas, comprised in the Leeward Islands command, an extensive and extending lime cultivation and manufacture of lime products give it the important advantage of having a well-established second staple article of export.

It is to Sturge's Montserrat Company, Limited, an English association, that are due the permanent establishment and profitable development of this interesting industry which affords an employment, in the collection and manipulation of the ripe limes, well suited to female and juvenile labourers.

The Company have at present from 500 to 600 acres of lime trees in full bearing, and have just commenced the gradual conversion of sugar estates they have lately purchased into lime plantations.

From the ripe limes are made ordinary lime juice, concentrated lime juice, and lime juice essence.

The gradual recovery of Montserrat during the last 15 years from a very low point of depression to a degree of substantial prosperity is to be attributed very much to the aid (while of course seeking their own advantage) afforded to energetic and industrious planters by the Company referred to, and by local capitalists. Steady and persevering individuals have been furnished with means wherewith to extend and improve cultivation

restore dilapidated buildings, and substitute for the tedious cattle mill and uncertain windmill, machinery moved by steam power.

The cultivation of the principal product of this island, the sugar cane, is carried on in the different stages of preparing the ground, planting, weeding, and reaping, generally on the task work system.

The work is hard enough while it lasts, but the labourers, male and female, who commence working at 6.30 a.m. finish their task at about 11 a.m.

A large proportion of the agricultural labourers and rural artizans, carpenters, masons, &c. are owners or renters of pieces of land ranging from half an acre to two or three acres in extent, and planted in canes or provisions. The lower slopes of the loftier and the summits of the lower hills of this mountainous little island are marked by the clearings of these small cultivators, and nothing can surpass the vigour and energy with which this peasantry of African descent labour on these holdings of their own. Here and there may be seen the creaking cattle mill and even windmill which, with a little boiling house, some labourer or mechanic, intelligent, frugal, and enterprising beyond his fellows, has contrived to erect, and to this little factory his neighbours carry their bundles of ripe canes to be converted into sugar, one third of which is kept as remuneration by the manufacturer.

Notwithstanding all that may be said in favour of sugar making on a large scale and by scientific processes, I consider the existence, to a certain extent, of this peasant proprietorship and industry to be a most useful and valuable variety of element in the social fabric of this community of agriculturists.

The sugar lands of many proprietors of considerable importance are cultivated more or less on the half system, a system by which the peasant occupiers of small plots of land are bound to grow canes which are brought at crop time to the works of the proprietor who retains half the sugar produced as rent for his land.

By this system proprietors lacking capital have been able to restore gradually to a state of cultivation properties which after emancipation were almost abandoned, but such proprietors when they have achieved a certain position, and by their savings, or by the assistance of capitalists, can command sufficient means, show a disposition to give up the half system and its troublesome details arising from dealings with a number of small tenants paying rent in kind, and to carry on the business of their estates on the footing of employers of labour paying money wages, and thoroughly controlling both cultivation and manufacture.

The average rainfall on a plantation of lime trees in the north part of the Island, 250 feet above sea level, was for 15 years, 1860–74, 63,128 ins.; on an estate cultivated in sugar cane on the west side of the Island, 225 feet above sea level, the average for 14 years, 1862–74, was 54,322 ins.; on a lime estate to the northward, 1,150 feet above sea level, the average for nine years, 1866–74, was 75,749 ins.

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The equal temperature of the Island is shown by the small daily range of the thermometer, which rarely exceeds 8° Fahrenheit, and the annual difference between highest maximum and lowest minimum, taken by a self-registering thermometer, is only 17°.

The average temperature taken at 10 a.m. every day is about 79°, and the mean temperature (difference between highest maximum and lowest minimum) is about 78° Fahrenheit.

Education.

The Federal Education Act passed by Governor Irving, and which came into operation at the beginning of this year (1875), brings all the schools of the Leeward Islands under the supervision of one inspector responsible to the Governor.

Irregularity in his visits to the different islands will not, as in the case of judicial functionaries, occasion any public inconvenience, and will have the advantage of keeping local managers of schools and teachers on the *qui vive*.

Sturge's Montserrat Company have lately built in the centre of their lime properties a spacious schoolroom, with teacher's house attached, for the use of the children of that part of the Island.

Besides obtaining a qualified female teacher from Antigua, the company have secured the services of the Reverend Mr. Westerby, late bishop of the Moravian Church in these islands, as general superintendent of the school, which was opened in May this year, 1875.

I recently paid this school an unexpected visit, and found present upwards of 100 children of both sexes and of various ages.

The work of this school is evidently conducted on a system in which there is life, intelligence, and order. One penny a week is required to be paid by each pupil. Bishop Westerby has also in operation a night school for older persons, meeting twice a week.

On the whole the condition of this little land of 9,000 souls is one of moderate but soundly based material prosperity.

Signs of the gradually increasing wealth of the mass of the people can be observed. In their moral state there is very much to deplore, but in estimating it great allowance must be made for race and for social traditions, and there must be remembered the fact that hardly 40 years have elapsed since England made the bold, righteous, and successful experiment of emancipating completely from slavery the black and coloured populations of Her West India Settlements.

(Signed) NEALE PORTER,
President.

NEVIS.

No. 10.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
MY LORD, November 10, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Nevis for 1874, with a report thereon from Mr. Jarvis the Acting President.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY.
The Right Hon. The Earl of Carnarvon, Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

President JARVIS to Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G.

SIR, President's Office, Nevis, October 1875.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency, in duplicate, the Blue Book of the Presidency of Nevis for the year 1874, and to report thereon as follows:—

The revenue of the Presidency including a balance of 2,690*l.* 13*s.* 9¼*d.* from the previous year was 8,011*l.* 16*s.* 2¼*d.*, and the expenditure including 919*l.* 14*s.* 0½*d.* arrears from last year, and 33*l.* 16*s.* 7½*d.*, loss on Post Office account, was 6,595*l.* 1*s.* 5½*d.* leaving a balance of 1,416*l.* 14*s.* 8¾*d.*, of which the sum of 1,116*l.* 19*s.* 11½*d.* was lent to the Immigration Fund.

Public Debt.

The only public debt is a sum of 3,000*l.*, borrowed from the Colonial Bank for immigration purposes, under the authority of Acts Nos. 2 and 3 of 1874. The debt bears interest at six per cent., and is repayable in five annual instalments.

Public Works.

The enlargement and repair of the general hospital was completed.

Legislation.

The Acts passed during the year were as follows:

No. 1. An Act to make further provision for the service of the Island for the year 1873.

NEVIS.

No. 2. An Act to raise a sum of money for the purpose of assisting to defray the expenses of the introduction of Coolie immigrants into the Island of Nevis.

No. 3. An Act to raise a further sum of money for the purpose of assisting to defray the expenses of the introduction of Coolie immigrants into the Island of Nevis.

No. 4. An Act to provide for the creation of a corporate body to represent the Church of England in this presidency.

No. 5. An Act to raise a sum of money for assisting to pay the amounts now due to public officers and others.

No. 6. An Act to impose an additional duty of 25 per cent. on the duties now payable on the imports into, and exports from the Island of Nevis, of goods, wares, and merchandize, and to impose an additional 25 per cent. on the sums now paid for rum and liquor licenses.

Act No. 4. was necessary in consequence of the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of England in this Presidency, and gives power to the bishop, clergy, and laity of the Communion of the Church in Nevis, in assemblies or councils, to elect a church council, for the purpose of framing constitutions and regulations for the general management, discipline, and good government of the said Communion, for administering the property and affairs of the Church of England in Nevis, and for the future representation of the members of the said Church in council.

Civil Establishment.

President Campbell having obtained 12 months leave of absence left the Presidency on the 11th August, and on the following day I assumed the duties of Acting President.

Pensions.

There is only one name on the pension list, that of George Webbe Daniell, late police magistrate, who by Act No. 3 of 1872 receives a pension of 45*l.* per annum. This pension was granted consequent on the passing of Act No. 7. of 1871, which unites the offices of colonial secretary, police magistrate, and judge of the complaint court.

Immigration

Three hundred and fifteen Coolies were landed in the month of March by the ship "Gainsborough" from Calcutta, viz.:—

Male adults - - - -	185
Female adults - - - -	76
Minors and infants - - - -	54
Total -	315

one male adult was landed in a dying state, and conveyed to the public infirmary where he died, the remaining 260 were indentured.

The expenditure under the head of immigration was 4,993*l.* 7*s* 8½*d.*, and was met by an—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Immigration tax - -	550	15	3
Loan from bank - -	3,000	0	0
Indenture fees - -	325	12	6
Loan from general revenue -	1,116	19	11½
Total	4,993	7	8½

The medical officers report, that the hospital accommodation is ample and satisfactory, and the dwellings are healthily located.

Concluding Remarks

A very serious drawback to the prosperity of Nevis is the want of good roads; bridges over several of the watercourses are urgently required, but the present state of the finances forbids any large outlay. The court house still remains a ruin, nothing has been done to it since its destruction by fire in 1873, and a wooden shed built in one corner is all the accommodation provided for the meetings of the Legislative Assembly and the Courts of Justice. The general health of the Island is good, and no epidemic of any sort occurred.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS JARVIS.

Acting President.

His Excellency George Berkeley, C.M.G.
Governor Leeward Islands.

VICTORIA.

VICTORIA.

No. 11.

Governor Sir G. F. BOWEN, G.C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government Offices, Melbourne,
October 2, 1874.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for publication in the annual Blue Book, showing the condition and progress of the British Colonies, the report, by the recently appointed Government Statist (Mr. Hayter), on the Statistics of Victoria for the year 1873.

2. This official document will be found to give a full account of the present condition of this Colony. I would also solicit attention to the interesting and valuable "Statistical Summary of "Victoria from 1836 to 1873, inclusive," which is prefixed to the report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. BOWEN.

The Right Hon. The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT.

To the HONORABLE ROBERT RAMSAY, M.P., &c., &c., &c.

Census Office, Melbourne,
September 1, 1874.

SIR,

Report. I HAVE the honour to submit the following report upon the statistics of Victoria, 1873.

Nine parts of statistics. 2. These statistics are published in nine distinct parts, eight of which have already been laid before Parliament. The remaining part, vital statistics, has been delayed owing to my not having been able, until recently, to obtain access to the birth, death, and marriage registers for the last quarter of 1873. That difficulty having, however, been surmounted, the part has been at length completed, and will be printed forthwith.

Objects of the report. 3. In writing this report, my first object will be to draw up such an analysis of the contents of the tables embraced in the several parts of the statistics as may be of material assistance to persons whose business or inclination may lead them to consult that work. As, however, it is possible that the report may circulate to places that the tables may not reach, or may find its

way to the hands of those who may neither have the leisure nor the desire to deal with bulky tabular matter, it will also be my endeavour to make the report as complete as possible in itself, and to that end I shall be obliged to quote somewhat largely from the figures embodied in the tables.

Statistical summary of Victoria.

4. The statistical summary printed on a folding sheet at the commencement of this work has been prepared with care. It contains figures under all the principal heads in connexion with which statistical information is usually required for as many years back as it has been possible to trace the particulars.

Index.

5. I beg to draw attention to the comprehensive index following the report, which will I trust be found of service.

Tables commented upon.

6. I shall now proceed to comment on the tables contained in the various parts as they occur in succession.

PART I.—BLUE BOOK.

Contents of Part I.

7. This part comprises a list of the various governors of the Colony from the date of its first settlement, and of the successive ministries and Parliaments since the inauguration of responsible government; of the members of the executive council and of both Houses of Parliament during 1873, and of the foreign consuls. It also contains tables showing the number of pensioners and amount of pensions chargeable upon the revenue of Victoria; and statements of the strength and expenditure of the land and naval forces and naval reserve.

Pensioners and pensions.

8. The following table shows the number of pensioners and the amount of their pensions in the year 1873; also the authority under which the pensions were respectively granted:—

Pensions and Pensioners, 1873.

Authority under which Pensions were granted.	Number of Pensioners.	Amount of Pensions.		
		£	*s.*	*d.*
Civil Service Act - - - - -	114	16,590	18	7
Lunacy Statute - - - - -	3	59	1	5
County Courts Statute - - - -	1	750	0	0
Other authority - - - - -	7	5,766	13	4
Total - - -	125	23,166	13	4

Pensions in 1873 and former years.

9. The number of pensioners was the same in 1872 and 1873, but the amount of pensions was less in the latter year by 167*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* Neither pensioners nor pensions have increased much since 1869, in which year the former numbered 108, and the latter amounted to 21,365*l.* It will be observed that one-fourth of the amount paid in pensions is set down under the head of "other authority." This embraces the pensions of Lady

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Darling, widow of Sir Charles Darling, formerly Governor of Victoria; of Mrs. Petrie, who was granted a pension in consequence of the meritorious conduct of the late Captain Flinders; of Mr. Hoddle, first Surveyor-General of the Colony; and of ministers relieved from office on the introduction of responsible government and on political grounds.

Artillery corps.

10. The paid artillery corps was formed under the Discipline Act, 1870 (34 Vict., No. 389), on the withdrawal of the detachment of Imperial troops formerly stationed in the Colony. The total number authorised for this corps is 199. At the end of 1873, however, the strength amounted to 145 only; the number wanting to complete the establishment being thus 54.

Volunteers.

11. The volunteer force at the end of 1873 numbered 3,970, or 343 short of the establishment. The number of Government rifles in possession at the same date amounted to 4,698.

Naval forces.

12. The Victorian naval forces consist of the crews of H.M.V.S. "*Nelson*" and H.M.V. Ironclad "*Cerberus.*" The establishment of the former is 36; that of the latter 80. Three hands were wanting at the end of 1873 to complete the establishment of the "*Cerberus.*"

Naval reserve.

13. The naval reserve comprises an establishment of 227 men, who receive a small fee as a retainer. The establishment of this corps at the end of 1873 showed a deficiency of 17.

Expenditure on defences.

14. The total expenditure during the year 1873 on account of defences was as follows:—

Military and Naval Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Staff salaries - - - -	3,564	16	10
Volunteer force—contingencies - -	18,586	18	0
Artillery corps—salaries - - -	7,576	14	2
„ contingencies - -	3,588	15	5
In aid of Rifle Association - - -	600	0	0
Cost of torpedoes - - - -	237	9	4
H.M.V.S. "*Nelson*"—salaries - -	4,154	7	0
„ contingencies -	278	1	10
H.M.V.S. "*Cerberus*"—salaries - -	4,039	19	11
„ contingencies -	3,511	6	0
Naval reserve—salaries and retainer fees -	2,652	4	0
„ contingencies -	705	17	2
Total - -	49,496	9	8

PART II.—FINANCE.

Contents of Part II.

15. Most of the tables in this part appeared also in the Treasurer's Finance Statement 1872–3. In addition there are tables of public debt, and of expenditure upon immigration, public

works, roads and bridges, and railways, giving information extending over a series of years.

16. According to the tables, the balance to the credit of the public account on the 30th June 1873 was 1,630,767*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* Public account.

17. The net revenue of the financial year 1872–3, was 3,644,135*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*,* and the net expenditure was 3,504,952*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.** The revenue thus exceeded the expenditure by 139,182*l.* 18*s.*† Revenue and expenditure.

18. Taking the average population of the Colony during the financial year as 770,306, the revenue amounted to 4*l.* 14*s.* 7½*d.*, and the expenditure to 4*l.* 11*s.* per head of the population. Revenue and expenditure per head.

19. The revenue for the year under review was collected under the following heads:— Heads of revenue.

Revenue of 1872–3.

Heads of Revenue.	Net Revenue collected.	Heads of Revenue.	Net Revenue collected.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Customs - -	1,673,757 15 11	Fees - -	86,005 15 9
Excise - -	92,172 12 9	Fines - -	8,588 19 5
Territorial - -	*667,390 10 11	Miscellaneous -	142,707 0 11
Public works -	774,414 5 1		
Ports and harbours -	18,125 15 1	Total - -	*3,644,135 8 4
Post and telegraph offices - -	180,972 12 6		

20. The revenue raised under the heads of customs, excise, and ports and harbours, amounting, in 1872–3, after the elimination of export duties, drawbacks, &c., to 1,784,056*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*, may be considered as the taxation of the colony.‡ This, distributed amongst the mean population, already stated to have been 770,306, gives 2*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* as the amount of taxation paid on the average during that financial year by each inhabitant of Victoria. Taxation, 1873.

21. These results and similar ones for each year from 1853 onwards are given in the following table, whereby it will be seen that, relatively to the population, the year of highest taxation Taxation, 1853 to 1872–3.

* The amounts marked with asterisks differ slightly from those in the tables of Part II. of the Statistics, which, to secure early publication, were compiled before the treasurer's balance sheet had been audited. The figures in the tables show 3,644,238*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* as the net revenue, and 3,505,086*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* as the net expenditure, and are quite near enough for ordinary purposes. I have, however, thought it advisable to give the exact figures here.

† Whilst these pages were passing through the press, a statement of the revenue raised and amount expended during the year 1873–4 was laid before Parliament, the results being, respectively, 4,064,924*l.* and 4,177,262*l.*; at the same time the estimated revenue for 1874–5 was stated to be 4,259,135*l.*, and the estimated expenditure 4,478,080*l.*

‡ According to the statement referred to at the foot of the preceding page, the amount raised by taxation in 1873–4 was 1,896,823*l.*, and the amount proposed to be so raised in 1874–5 is 1,887,500*l.*

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was 1855 (4*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* per head), and that of the lowest was 1866 (1*l.* 18*s.* 5½*d.* per head) :—

Population and Taxation from Year 1853 *to* 1872–3.

Year.	Average Population.	Gross Amount of Taxation.	Amount of Taxation per Head.	Year.	Average Population.	Gross Amount of Taxation.	Amount of Taxation per Head.
		£	£ s. d.			£	£ s. d.
1853	195,378	800,577	4 1 11½	1864	589,160	1,167,036	1 19 7½
1854	267,371	1,052,462	3 18 8½	1865	616,375	1,214,479	1 19 4¾
1855	338,315	1,426,535	4 4 4	1866	634,077	1,219,567	1 18 5½
1856	380,942	1,458,647	3 16 7	1867	649,826	1,516,231	2 6 8
1857	430,347	1,331,362	3 1 10½	1868	671,222	1,352,818	2 0 3¾
1858	483,827	1,414,511	2 18 5¾	1869	696,942	1,539,495	2 4 2
1859	517,226	1,414,760	2 14 8½	1870	709,839	1,394,333	1 19 3½
1860	539,337	1,330,761	2 9 4¼	1871†	731,528	724,261	0 19 9½
1861	541,025	1,244,389	2 6 0	1871–2	749,964	1,612,034	2 3 0
1862	548,087	1,183,194	2 3 2	1872–3	770,306	1,784,056	2 6 4
1863	561,322	1,158,219	2 1 3¼				

† Six months.

Heads of expenditure.

22. Subjoined is an abstract of the expenditure 1872–3, showing the amounts expended under each minister, and the amount specially appropriated :—

Expenditure, 1872–3.

Heads of Service.	Net Expenditure.
	£ s. d.
Chief secretary - - - - -	*465,543 14 9
Minister of public instruction - - - -	*226,463 6 1
Attorney-general - - - - -	77,024 16 9
Solicitor-general - - - - -	79,701 18 11
Treasurer - - - - -	*267,765 1 9
Commissioner of Crown lands and survey - -	99,699 4 11
Commissioner of public works - - - -	202,280 7 3
Commissioner of trade and customs - - -	*81,357 7 4
Postmaster-general - - - - -	215,559 17 10
Commissioner of railways and roads - - -	*327,607 10 11
Minister of mines - - - - -	24,623 15 1
Arrears, 1871–2 - - - - -	6,500 12 10
Special appropriations - - - - -	*1,430,824 15 11
Total - - - -	*3,504,952 10 4

Special appropriations.

23. The special appropriations are for the following purposes, the amount appropriated being placed against each item. The amounts appropriated are not necessarily expended in each year, and, by comparison of the amounts in the last and following

* For reasons stated at the foot of the previous page, the amounts marked with asterisks differ slightly from those given in the tables of Part II. of the Statistics.

tables, it will be seen that during the year under review a sum of 49,188*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* remain unexpended :—

*Special Appropriations.**

Heads of Service.	Amount appropriated.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*
Governor's salary	10,000	0	0
Salaries of judges and increase to ditto	14,594	1	8
Salaries of responsible ministers	14,000	0	0
Expenses of executive and legislative councils	6,500	0	0
Pensions to officers appointed during good behaviour	4,000	0	0
Compensation to officers retired on political grounds	1,666	13	4
Pensions to persons released from offices on political grounds	1,750	0	0
Public worship	50,000	0	0
University of Melbourne	6,750	0	0
Liquidation of corporation bonds	35,000	0	0
Interest on loans and expenses connected therewith	698,902	8	9
Principal of Melbourne and Mount Alexander railway debentures	68,000	0	0
Pensions	19,238	12	8
Endowment, &c. of local bodies	193,559	11	7
Steam postal communication	80,000	0	0
Interest of post office savings bank deposits	16,241	11	2
Salaries of audit commissioners	3,000	0	0
Electoral expenses	6,645	5	8
Mining boards	3,500	0	0
Mint	18,333	6	8
Railway loan, liquidation, and construction account	200,000	0	0
Expenses of members of Parliament	27,331	6	6
Agent-general's salary	1,000	0	0
Total	1,480,012	18	0

24. The public debt at the end of 1873 amounted to 12,445,722*l.*, of which sum 10,669,193*l.* was borrowed for the construction of railways, and 1,776,529 for water supply, defences, graving dock, and other public works. The amount originally borrowed was 13,948,100*l.*, part of which was for the purpose of supplying water to Melbourne and suburbs, and part to purchase the rights of the Melbourne, Mount Alexander, and Murray River Railway Company. These two sums, amounting together to 868,100*l.*, have been paid off, leaving the balance of debt as stated. Public debt.

25. The following are the rates of interest at which the various sums forming component parts of the present debt were borrowed :— Rates of interest on public debt.

Amount.	Rate of Interest.
£11,180,320	6 per cent.
312,900	5 „
952,502	4 „
£12,445,722	

* For reasons already stated, several of the amounts in this table differ slightly from those given in Part II. of the Statistics. According to the tables in that Part, the total amount of special appropriations was 1,480,132*l.* 18*s.* The present are the corrected figures.

VICTORIA.

Amount of indebtedness per head.

26. The estimated population of Victoria at the end of 1873 was 790,492, and the debt at the same date being 12,445,722*l.*, the average proportion of indebtedness to every man, woman, and child in the Colony was therefore 15*l.* 14*s.* 10¾*d.*

Amount of interest per head.

27. The estimated average population of Victoria during the financial year 1872–3 was 770,306, and the amount of interest on loans and expenses connected therewith was 698,902*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.** This represents an average payment on behalf of each person in the Colony in that year of 18*s.* 1¾*d.*

Expenditure on immigration.

28. The amount spent on immigration during the year 1872–3 was 8,931*l.*, as against 27,183*l.* in the previous year. In the nine and a half years ended 1872–3 the total amount spent on immigration was 356,407*l.*, of which 331,143*l.* was spent on the introduction of immigrants, and the remainder in departmental and contingent expenses.

Expenditure on public works, railways, &c., 1873.

29. In the year 1872–3 the following amounts were expended on public works, roads and bridges, and railways. The expenditure on the two first was not quite complete when the return was furnished:—

	Amount expended, 1872–3.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*
Public works - - -	186,464	5	8
Roads and bridges - -	40,207	14	5
Railways construction - -	781,095	13	4
„ maintenance - -	72,083	1	4
Total -	£1,079,850	14	9

Expenditure on works, railways, &c., in series of years.

30. In the nine and a half years ended 1872–3 the amount spent on public works was 2,221,771*l.*, and the amount on roads and bridges was 702,734*l.* Since 1858, the year in which Government railways were first commenced in Victoria, the amounts spent on their construction and maintenance have been—construction, 10,815,880*l.*; maintenance, 623,549*l.*; total, 11,439,429*l.*

PART III.—POPULATION.

Population and increase, 1873.

31. The estimated population of Victoria at the beginning of 1873 was 770,727; that at the close of the same year was 790,492.† The increase during the year thus amounted to 19,765.

* Stated in table of "Special Appropriations," in Part II. of Statistics (taken from treasurer's unaudited balance sheet), to be 699,022*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*

† Whilst these pages were passing through the press, the usual quarterly estimate of the population of Victoria was made by the Government statist, bringing the result down to the 30th June 1874. The following are the figures:—Males, 432,928; females, 364,121; total, 797,049.

Increase by births and immigration.

32. Of this increase 16,599, or over five-sixths, was due to excess of births ever deaths, and 3,166, or barely a sixth, to excess of immigration over emigration.

Relative proportions of sexes.

33. The population at the end of 1873 consisted of 430,042 males and 360,450 females. These figures furnish a proportion of 84 females to 100 males, or of 119 males to 100 females.

Aborigines.

34. The Aborigines have not been regularly enumerated since the census of 1871. Their numbers then were reported to be—males, 784 ; females, 546 ; total, 1,330. It is certain, however, that some were missed by the sub-enumerators. In August 1872 the Central Board for the Protection of the Aborigines had information of the existence of 1,638 in different parts of the Colony.

Immigrants and emigrants.

35. Immigrants numbered 29,460 during the year under review, and emigrants 26,294. The excess of the former was thus 3,166, as already stated.

Sexes of immigrants and emigrants.

36. Males contributed 20,805 to the immigration, and 18,335 to the emigration. Females contributed 8,655 to the immigration, and 7,959 to the emigration. The excess of arrivals over departures was thus 2,470 as regards males, and 696 as regards females.

Adults, children, and infants arriving and departing.

37. The immigrants and emigrants are classified by the immigration authorities as adults, children, and infants. Of adults, 26,044 came, and 22,418 went away during the year, leaving a balance of arrivals over departures amounting to 3,626. Of children 180, and of infants 280, more left than arrived in the Colony.

Immigration from and emigration to various places.

38. The gain to the population of the colony by excess of immigration from Tasmania over emigration was 4,007 ; from the United Kingdom it was 2,082 ; and from New Zealand and the South Seas it was 540. The loss by excess of departures to South and Western Australia over arrivals therefrom was 1,916 ; that to New South Wales and Queensland was 1,394 ; and that to foreign ports was 153.

Years of largest and smallest immigration and emigration.

39. The number of arrivals in the year under review (29,460) was less than in any other year of the last 10, except 1872 (27,047), 1871 (28,332), and 1867 (27,242). The largest number of arrivals in any year of the 10 (36,156) was in 1864. The number of depaartures in the year under review (26,294) was greater than in any year of the 10, except 1866, in which 27,629 persons left the Colony.

Assisted immigrants

40. The number of assisted immigrants during the year amounted to 863 only, viz., 456 males, and 407 females. All these were warrant passengers.

Arrivals and departures of Chinese.

41. The Chinese who arrived during the year numbered 269, viz., 264 males and 5 females. Those who departed 523, all males.

Miners.

42. According to an estimate made by the Secretary for Mines, the mining population numbered 50,595 at the end of the year under review. Of these 37,067 were Europeans, and 13,528 were Chinese. Those engaged in alluvial mining numbered 33,822, and those in quartz mining 16,773. All the Chinese miners, with the exception of 115, were engaged in alluvial mining. When the last census was taken (7th April 1871) the gold miners

VICTORIA.

Goldfield population.

of all descriptions numbered 52,425. By the present figures their numbers would appear to have fallen off since that period by nearly 2,000.

43. The total population of the goldfields has not been ascertained or estimated since the census. It then amounted to 270,428, of whom only about a fifth were miners.

Municipal districts.

44. There were 60 cities, towns, and boroughs, and 110 shires and road districts, in existence during 1873. The population of the former was estimated to amount to 389,542, that of the latter to 370,995, making a total of 760,537. Thus the whole population of the Colony, with the exception of about 25,000, were enjoying the advantages of local self-government.

Rateable property, revenue, and expenditure.

45. The estimated total and annual value of rateable property and the revenue and expenditure in these two descriptions of municipal districts respectively during the year under review were as follow:—

Cities, Towns, and Boroughs; Shires and Road Districts, 1873.

	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Total.	Annual.		
	£	£	£	£
Cities, towns, and boroughs -	25,391,990	2,701,453	410,508	446,591
Shires and road districts - -	31,415,663	2,872,761	529,426	589,367
Total - -	56,807,653	5,574,214	939,934	1,035,958

Naturalization.

46. One hundred and sixteen foreigners obtained letters of naturalization during the year; of these 65, or more than half, were natives of Germany. The principal occupations were miners (27), farmers (25), and vignerons (11). In the previous nine years 918 persons were naturalized, or an average of 102 per annum.

Electors for Legislative Council.

47. The number of electors on the roll of the Legislative Council in January 1874 was 23,736, of whom 1,983 were on the ordinary and 21,753 on the ratepayers' roll. At the biennial election of the Legislative Council held in 1872, 54 per cent. of the electors in contested districts recorded their votes.

Electors for Legislative Assembly.

48. The electors for the Legislative Assembly numbered as follow:—Ordinary roll, 28,725; ratepayers' roll, 113,580; total, 142,305. Sixty-five per cent. of the electors of districts in which the last election was contested recorded their votes on that occasion.

PART IV.—ACCUMULATION.

Coins and accounts.

49. This part commences with a statement to the effect that the coins in circulation in Victoria are the same as those used in

the United Kingdom, and that the accounts are kept in sterling money (£ *s.* *d.*).

Royal Mint.

50. A return of the Royal Mint shows that from the opening of this establishment in 1872 to the end of the following year, 412,609 ounces of gold had been received of the value of 1,652,044*l.*; that of this gold 4,311 ounces, valued at 14,646*l.* had been issued as bullion; and that the remainder had been converted into 1,500,000 sovereigns and 165,000 half-sovereigns, of the total value of 1,582,500*l.*; that the total value of coin and bullion issued amounted to 1,597,146*l.*, and that the mint receipts amounted to 9,067*l.*

Banks.

51. In the year under review there were 10 banks of issue in Victoria, and these had 231 branches or agencies within the Colony. The rate of interest allowed by these banks on moneys deposited for 12 months ranged during the year from 3 to 4 per cent.

Rates of exchange.

52. The following are the average rates of exchange which prevailed during the 12 months for bills drawn on the places named:—

London - -	½ to ¾ per cent. premium.
British India -	4 per cent. premium, 2*s.* 1*d.* per rupee.
New South Wales	2*s.* 3*d.* to 5*s.* per cent. premium.
Queensland -	½ to 1 per cent. premium.
South Australia -	2*s.* 9*d.* to 10*s.* per cent. premium.
Tasmania - -	¼ to ½ per cent. premium.
New Zealand -	¼ to ½ per cent. premium.

Rates of discount.

53. The average rates per cent. per annum of discount on local bills were as follow:—

Under 65 days' currency - -	5 to 6 per cent.
From 65 to 95 days' currency	- 5½ to 7 „
„ 95 to 125 „ „	- 6½ to 8 „
Above 125 „ „	- 7 to 9 „

Liabilities, assets, capital, and profits, 1864–1873.

54. The position of the banks as regards liabilities, assets, capital, and profits in the last quarter of the year under review and 10 years prior to that date are shown as follow. The number of banks at the earlier period was nine and at the latter 10:—

Liabilities.

	1864.	1873.
	£	£
Notes in circulation - - - -	1,306,809	1,452,908
Bills in circulation - - -	85,893	79,097
Balances due to other banks - -	74,009	280,439
Deposits bearing interest - - -	4,588,149	6,818,814
Deposits not bearing interest -	3,430,303	5,461,737
	9,485,163	14,092,995

Assets.

	1864.	1873.
	£	£
Coined gold, silver, and other metals -	1,382,152	2,435,239
Gold and silver, in bullion or bars - -	469,438	480,763
Landed property - - - -	511,689	653,138
Notes and bills of other banks - -	160,506	171,925
Balances due from other banks - -	262,610	319,024
Government securities - - -	93,424	—
Debts due to the banks* - - -	10,553,591	15,883,870
	13,433,410	19,943,959

Capital and Profits.

	£	£
Capital stock paid up - - -	7,618,960	8,366,250
Average per annum of rates of last dividend declared by the banks - - -	11⅛ per cent.	10$\frac{1}{10}$ per cent.
Average rate per annum of interest paid to shareholders - - - -	11·988 per cent.	10·746 per cent.
Total amount of last dividend declared -	456,670	449,500
Amount of reserved profits after declaring dividend - - - - -	1,594,806	2,311,065

Relative proportions of liabilities, assets, &c., 1864–1873.

55. It will be observed that at both periods the liabilities amounted to nearly 71 per cent. of the assets; that the coin and bullion at the former period amounted to 13·78 per cent. of the assets, and at the latter period to 14·62 per cent.; and that the paid-up capital was equal to 56·72 per cent. of the assets, and 80·33 per cent. of the liabilities, at the former period, and to 41·95 per cent. of the assets, and 59·36 per cent. of the liabilities, at the latter period.

Savings banks.

56. Savings banks in Victoria are of two kinds—Post Office and ordinary savings banks. The former numbered 140, and the latter 11, in the year under review.

Depositors and balances.

57. The following figures give the number of depositors, and the total and average amount of depositors' balances, in the two descriptions of institutions:—

Savings Banks, 1873.

	Number of Depositors.	Total Amount of Depositors' Balances.	Average Amount of Depositors' Balances.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Post Office savings banks -	34,360	603,524 0 0	17 11 4
Ordinary savings banks -	24,187	895,094 0 0	37 0 2
Total - -	58,547	1,498,618 0 0	24 11 6

NOTE.—The returns of the ordinary savings banks are brought down only to the 30th June 1873.

* Including notes, bills of exchange, and all stock and funded debts of every description, except notes, bills, and balances due to the banks from other banks.

58. In 1865, or eight years prior to the year under review, the number of depositors was 20,074, and the amount of moneys on deposit was 734,568*l.* or 36*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* to each depositor. It will be observed that the depositors have increased nearly threefold, and the amounts on deposits have more than doubled, since that period, but that the average to each depositor has fallen off by 11*l.*, or more than a third.

Results of 1865 and 1873 compared.

59. The number and amount of mortgages on land, the number and amount on live stock, and the number and amount of preferable liens on wool, effected during 1873, also the number and amount of releases during the same year, are given as follow:—

Mortgages and releases.

Mortgages and Releases, 1873.

	Mortgages and Liens.		Releases.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
Land - - -	4,480	3,991,443	2,981	1,894,288
Live stock - -	386	811,231	100	364,913
Wool - - -	289	445,691	2	8,800
Total - -	5,155	5,248,365	3,083	2,268,001

60. During the past 10 years about 27,000,000*l.* have been raised on land, 8,000,000*l.* on live stock, and 6,000,000*l.* on wool. The total amount raised on mortgage during that period has thus been no less than forty-one millions sterling.

Moneys raised on mortgage, 1864 to 1873.

61. Fifty-eight building societies were in existence in Victoria in 1873, the number of members in which amounted to 19,379, the income during the year to 756,874*l.* and the working expenses to 23,242*l.* The gross assets of these societies at the last date of balancing were 1,931,416*l.*, and the gross liabilities 1,508,931*l.*

Building societies.

PART V.—INTERCHANGE.

62. During the year 1873, articles of the declared value of 16,533,856*l.* were imported into Victoria, and goods valued at 15,302,454*l.* were exported therefrom. The excess of imports over exports was thus 1,231,402*l.*, and the total value of external trade was 31,836,310*l.*

Imports and exports, 1873.

63. The value of imports in the year under review exceeded that in the former year by 2,842,534*l.*, and the value of exports exceeded that in the former year by 1,431,259*l.*

Imports and exports 1872 and 1873 compared.

64. The following table gives the mean population, the value of imports, the value of exports, and the total value of trade,

Imports and exports per head of population.

together with the value of each per head of the population, in the two last years :—

Population, Imports, and Exports, 1872 *and* 1873.

Year.	Estimated Mean Population.	Imports.		Exports.		Trade.	
		Total Value.	Value per Head of Population.	Total Value.	Value per Head of Population.	Total Value.	Value per Head of Population.
		£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
1872	760,991	13,691,322	17 19 10	13,871,195	18 4 6¾	27,562,517	36 4 4¾
1873	780,362	16,533,856	21 3 9	15,302,454	19 12 2¾	31,836,310	40 15 11½

Imports and exports per head for series of years.

65. The imports in the year under review represent a higher value per head of the population than do those of any other year since 1866; but in each year from the first after the discovery of gold (1852) to 1866, both inclusive, the imports per head were higher than in any year after 1866. The exports per head of the population were higher in each year from 1852 onwards than they were in 1873, except 1867, 1869, 1870, and 1872.

Years when imports and exports were highest.

66. The proportion of imports was highest in 1853, when it amounted to no less than 81*l.* per head of the population, and in 1854, when it amounted to 66*l.* per head. Exports were rateably highest in 1853, when they amounted to 56*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* per head, and in 1852, when they amounted to 56*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* per head.

Years when imports and exports were in excess of 1873.

67. A glance at the folding sheet at the commencement of this Report will show that the value of the imports of 1873 has only been exceeded in two years since the founding of the colony, viz., 1854 and 1857, in the former of which the declared value was 17,659,051*l.*, and in the latter 17,256,209*l.* It will also be observed that the value of exports has only been exceeded in two years, viz.,1856, when it was 15,489,760*l.*, and 1868, when it was 15,593,990*l.*

Imports and exports the produce of different countries.

68. Of the articles imported in the year under review 45 per cent. (7,423,811*l.*) were the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, 36 per cent. (5,919,528*l.*) of other British possessions, and 19 per cent. (3,190,517*l.*) of foreign countries. Of the articles exported, 78 per cent. (11,876,707*l.*) were the produce or manufacture of Victoria, and 22 per cent. (3,425,747*l.*) were of other countries, viz., 6½ per cent. (1,030,125*l.*) of the United Kingdom, 11 per cent. (1,688,230*l.*) of other British possessions, and 4½ per cent. (707,392*l.*) of foreign states.

Imports from and exports to different countries.

69. Forty-eight per cent. (7,873,134*l.*) of the imports were from the United Kingdom, 40 per cent. (6,648,858*l.*) were from other British possessions, and 12 per cent. (2,011,864*l.*) were from foreign states. Of the exports, nearly 64 per cent. (9,741,608*l.*) were to the United Kingdom, nearly 36 per cent. (5,410,687*l.*)

were to other British possessions, and only a fraction (150,159*l.*) were to foreign states. VICTORIA.

70. The following figures show the amount of trade carried on by Victoria with the adjacent colonies during the last two years :— Trade with adjacent colonies, 1872 and 1873.

Imports from and Exports to the other Australian Colonies, 1872 and 1873.

Name of Colony.	Imports therefrom.		Exports thereto.	
	1872.	1873.	1872.	1873.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales -	2,754,717	3,366,963	962,702	703,494
New Zealand - -	1,161,509	999,358	962,846	975,146
Queensland - -	8,380	60,648	89,730	82,435
South Australia -	295,727	146,795	354,757	361,880
Tasmania - -	247,451	239,724	278,043	410,571
Western Australia -	9,151	2,312	48,165	55,833
Total - -	4,476,935	4,815,800	2,696,243	2,589,359

71. It will be observed that the imports from the other colonies were greater and the exports thereto were less in the year under notice than the former one; also that in 1872 the imports were equal to a little less than two-thirds, and in 1873 to considerably less that two-thirds, of the exports. Results in table compared.

72. The greater part of the trade of the colony is done, as may be supposed, at the port of Melbourne. In 1873 goods to the value of 13,714,828*l.* or about five-sixths of the whole imports, were landed at that port, and goods to the value of 13,785,052*l.*, or about nine-tenths of the whole exports, were shipped therefrom, The imports to Geelong amounted to 256,839*l.* only; but the exports from the same port amounted to 1,399,875*l.* Goods to the value of 2,534,937*l.* were imported into Victoria across the Murray, and were landed at the seven Murray ports, but the exports by the way of the same ports amounted to the value of 94,663*l.* only. Trade at various ports.

73. The following are the values of 20 of the principal articles imported in the last two years :— Value of certain articles imported, 1872 and 1873.

Imports.

—	1872.	1873.
	£	£
Apparel and slops - - - -	289,189	292,253
Bags and sacks - - - -	115,370	218,925½
Beer and cider - - - -	136,869	209,772
Boots and shoes - - - -	245,838	275,631
Coals - - - -	184,374	245,596
Cottons - - - - -	636,441	638,147

	1872.	1873.
	£	£
Gold (exclusive of specie) - - -	986,494	991,410
Grain (including rice) - - -	654,082	622,245
Haberdashery and drapery - - -	311,440	338,998
Iron and steel - - - -	413,362	495,041
Live stock - - - - -	758,858	842,988
Oil - - - - - -	207,939	253,957
Silks - - - - -	273,378	293,043
Specie - - - - -	268,865	107,973
Spirits - - - - -	365,865	405,302
Sugar and molasses - - - -	1,065,275	1,304,631
Tea - - - - - -	534,648	757,591
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff - - -	280,473	334,460
Wool - - - - -	1,215,094	1,841,515
Woollens - - - - -	805,130	913,648

Value of certain articles exported, 1872 and 1873.

74. Certain articles of the following values were exported in the two years :—

Exports.

	£	£
Apparel and slops - - - -	127,366	129,514
Black sand - - - - -	20,615	8,440
Bones and bonedust - - - -	21,232	11,974
Boots and shoes - - - -	50,618	56,220
Drapery - - - - -	177,031	132,169
Flour and biscuit - - - -	31,596	61,599
Gold (exclusive of specie) - - -	5,197,340	5,168,614
Grain - - - - -	90,868	82,334
Hides, skins, and pelts - - -	49,169	53,659
Horns and hoofs - - - -	2,397	4,702
Leather - - - - -	215,710	220,443
Provisions (preserved and salted) - -	271,643	246,893
Specie - - - - -	686,671	1,117,175
Sugar - - - - -	189,212	148,081
Tallow - - - - -	353,358	233,091
Tea - - - - - -	190,872	269,794
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff - - -	153,929	170,966
Wool - - - - -	4,651,665	5,738,638

Transhipments.

75. The value of goods laden on ships ariving in Victoria and transhipped to other countries and colonies amounted to 1,292,656*l.* in 1872, and to 1,827,842*l.* in 1873. These goods are not included in the accounts of imports and exports.

Customs receipts, 1872 and 1873.

76. The following are the gross customs receipts in the last two years :—

Customs Receipts.

	1872.	1873.
	£	£
Import duties - - -	1,615,052	1,798,040
Other receipts - - - -	63,284	66,576
	1,678,336	1,864,616

77. In addition to the above, the pilotage rates received amounted to 16,886*l.* in 1872, and to 20,962*l.* in 1873. Pilotage rates.

78. Sums amounting to 29,083*l.* in 1872, and 43,685*l.* in 1873, were paid as drawbacks on the export of dutiable goods. Drawbacks.

79. The following vessels were entered at and cleared from Victorian ports in the last two years:— Vessels entered and cleared.

Vessels entered and cleared, 1872 *and* 1873.

Year.	Vessels entered.			Vessels cleared.		
	Number.	Tons.	Men.	Number.	Tons.	Men.
1872	2,104	666,336	33,551	2,234	694,426	35,353
1873	2,187	756,103	36,307	2,226	762,912	36,216

80. In 1873, 139 vessels, of 167,390 tons, entered from, and 85 vessels, of 97,894 tons, cleared for, the United Kingdom; 1,774 vessels, of 448,702 tons, entered from, and 1,972 vessels, of 537,024 tons, cleared for, the Australian colonies and New Zealand; 126 vessels, of 60,617 tons, entered from, and 91 vessels, of 70,919 tons, cleared for, other British possessions; 39 vessels, of 26,223 tons, entered from, and 31 vessels, of 31,145 tons, cleared for the United States; and 109 vessels, of 53,171 tons, entered from, and 47 vessels, of 25,930 tons, cleared for, other foreign states. Vessels entered from and cleared for various counties.

81. Of the vessels, entered, 319, of 251,344 tons, were British; 1,740, of 434,979 tons, were colonial; and 128, of 69,780 tons, were foreign. Of the vessels cleared, 270, of 248,357 tons, were British; 1,839, of 452,592 tons, were colonial; and 117, of 61,963 tons, were foreign. British, colonial, and foreign vessels entered and cleared.

82. British vessels inwards had crews consisting of 10,358 men, and outwards of 9,653 men; colonial vessels inwards had crews consisting of 24,222 men, and outwards of 25,028 men; foreign vessels inwards had crews consisting of 1,727 men, and outwards of 1,535 men. British vessels had, therefore, a man to every 25 tons; colonial vessels had a man to every 18 tons; or British and colonial together had a man to every 20 tons; and foreign vessels had a man to every $40\frac{2}{5}$ tons. The average of all nationalities was one man to every 21 tons. Crews, and proportion to tonnage.

83. Three sailing vessels, of an aggregate burden of 187 tons, were built in Victoria in the year under review, but no steamer was built during that year. In the previous year two steamers, measuring 32 tons, and eight sailing vessels, measuring 446 tons, were built. Four steamers, of 1,496 tons, and 46 sailing vessels, of 11,144 tons, were registered in the year under review, as against five steamers, of 475 tons, and 37 sailing vessels, of 7,671 tons, in the former year. Vessels built and registered.

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Vessels on the egister.

84. The vessels on the Victorian register in the year under notice numbered 423; viz., 48 steamers and 375 sailing vessels. The tonnage of the former was 10,622, that of the latter 55,688. The steamers carried 773 men, and the sailing vessels 2,448 men.

Lighters and boats licensed.

85. The number of lighters licensed for the conveyance of goods was 136 in the year under review, and 127 in the previous year. The number of boats licensed in the year under review was 320 for ferry, passenger, and other purposes, 7 for oyster fishing, and 2 whale boats, or 329 in all. In the previous year the total number of boats licensed was 315, viz., 310 for ferry, passenger traffic, &c., 3 for oyster fishing, and 2 whale boats.

Postal returns, 1872 and 1873.

86. The following is a return of the letters and newspapers despatched and received, and the income and expenditure of the post office, in the last two years. A large increase will be observed in all the items. The income and expenditure includes that of the electric telegraph department, which is incorporated with the post office. The expenditure does not include the cost of steam postal communication with Great Britain:

Postage, 1872 *and* 1873.

Year.	Number of Post Offices.	Number despatched and received of—			Income.	Expenditure.
		Letters.	Newspapers.	Packets.		
					£	£
1872 -	733	12,941,095	5,490,772	556,486	182,774	238,091
1873 -	764	14,475,085	6,080,007	707,316	191,357	260,312

Money orders.

87. Money orders are now issued and paid at 204 places in Victoria. Orders are besides issued in favour of Victoria and Victorian orders are paid at places in Great Britain and Ireland, New South Wales, New Zealand, South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania. The following are the number and amounts of orders issued and paid in Victoria in the two last years:—

Money Orders, 1872 *and* 1873.

Year.	Number of Money Order Offices.	Money Orders issued.		Money Orders paid.	
		Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1872	196	113,050	341,976 6 10	105,084	328,138 16 3
1873	204	113,135	341,961 10 8	109,048	348,019 0 6

Electric telegraphs.

88. There are now nearly 4,000 miles of telegraph wire in operation in Victoria. The Victorian lines are, moreover, con-

nected with those of the other Australian colonies and Tasmania, and with the trans-continental line to Europe. The following are the returns for the last two years :—

Electric Telegraph, 1872 *and* 1873.

Year.	Number of Stations.	Number of Miles of Wire.	Number of Telegrams.			Amount received.
			Paid.	Unpaid.	Total.	
						£
1872 -	117	3,634	554,315	85,645	639,960	42,618
1873 -	135	3,928	593,848	124,319	718,167	45,323

Miles of railway open and projected.

89. The number of miles of railway open at the end of 1873 was 458; of this extent 441 miles were the property of the State, and 17 miles belonged to a private company. Legislative sanction had been obtained for the making by the Government of 380 additional miles of railway, and 145 miles were actually in the course of construction at the period named.

Cost of construction.

90. The returns under notice, except those of railway receipts, do not, so far as those relating to the Government lines are concerned, extend to a later period than the 30th June 1873, but the returns of the private railways go down to the end of 1873. At these dates the miles opened and total cost of construction stood as follow. The amount set down as the cost of private lines represents their cost to the present proprietors. The absolute cost of construction was 1,289,285*l.*, the difference being the loss sustained by former companies :—

Railways, Length and Cost.

	Miles opened.	Total Cost.	Average Cost per Mile.
		£	£ *s.* *d.*
Government lines - - -	360	10,815,880	30,212 0 0
Private lines - - -	17	859,979	50,587 0 5
Total - - -	377	11,675,859	80,799 0 5

Rolling stock.

91. The rolling stock on the lines consisted at the periods named of 111 locomotives, 229 passenger carriages, 150 sheep and cattle trucks, 1,571 goods trucks and waggons, and 135 guard vans and other vehicles. The total cost of this rolling stock was 882,218*l.*

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Passenger rates.

92. The passenger rates per mile were as follow :—

Passenger Rates.

—	First Class.	Second Class.
	d.	*d.*
Government lines, single - - - -	3	2
„ „ return - - - -	2·4	1·6
Private lines, single - - - - -	1½	1⅛
„ „ return - - - - -	1¼	1

Distance travelled.

93. The distance travelled during the twelve months prior to the dates of the returns was, on Government lines 1,354,131 miles, and on private lines 412,586, making a total of 1,766,717 miles.

Passengers carried.

94. The number of passengers carried during the same periods on Government lines was 1,720,814½, and on private lines 3,003,233, or 4,724,047½ in all.

Goods carried.

95. The weight of goods carried on Government lines during the twelve months was 569,869 tons, and on private lines 233,064 tons, making a total of 802,933 tons.

Railway receipts.

96. The total receipts on Government and private lines during the two last years for which information is available were as follow. The receipts on Government lines are those of the years ended 30th June 1873 and 1874 :—

Railway Receipts, 1872 *and* 1873.

—	Passenger Fares.		Freight on Goods and Live Stock.		Sundries.		Total Receipts.	
	1872.	1873.	1872.	1873.	1872.	1873.	1872.	1873.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government lines -	222,995	260,675	442,971	546,968	37,762	43,399	703,728	851,042
Private lines - -	86,526	105,238	37,035	47,528	1,615	1,251	125,176	154,017
Total - -	309,521	365,913	480,006	594,496	39,377	44,650	828,904	1,005,059

NOTE.—The returns relating to the Government lines are brought down to the 30th June of the year succeeding the one named at the head of the columns.

Wages.

97. The following are the average rates of labour in Melbourne in the year under review, and at the two former quinquennial periods. It will be observed that up to the latest period wages, as a rule, have fully maintained their standard, and that in many instances the rates were higher in 1873 than they were ten years previously. In country districts wages are generally somewhat higher than in Melbourne :—

Wages in Melbourne, 1863, 1868, *and* 1873.

Description of Labour.	1863.	1868.	1873.
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR*			
Farm labourers - - per week, with rations	12*s.* to 18*s.*	10*s.* to 20*s.*	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Ploughmen - - - „ „ -	15*s.* to 20*s.*	15*s.* to 20*s.*	18*s.* to 20*s.*
Reapers - - - per acre „ -	10*s.* to 12*s.*	10*s.* to 15*s.*	12*s.* to 14*s.*
Mowers - - - „ „ -	3*s.* to 4*s.*	4*s.* to 5*s.*	3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* 6*d.*
Threshers - - - per bushel „ -	4*d.* to 5*d.*	3*d.* to 6*d.*	5*d.* to 7*d.*
PASTORAL LABOUR.†			
Shepherds - - - per annum, with rations	30*l.* to 35*l.*	25*l.* to 40*l.*	30*l.* to 50*l.*
Stockkeepers - - „ „ -	45*l.* to 70*l.*	30*l.* to 60*l.*	35*l.* to 50*l.*
Hutkeepers - - „ „ -	25*l.* to 30*l.*	22*l.*	25*l.* to 30*l.*
Generally-useful men on stations - - - per week „ -	15*s.* to 18*s.*	10*s.* to 15*s.*	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Sheepwashers - - „ „ -	14*s.*	12*s.* to 15*s.*	15*s.* to 25*s.*
Shearers - per 100 sheep sheared „ -	13*s.* to 14*s.*	12*s.* to 15*s.*	14*s.* to 15*s.*
ARTISAN LABOUR.			
Masons - - - per day, without rations	8*s.* to 10*s.*	8*s.* to 10*s.*	10*s.* to 11*s.*
Plasterers - - - „ „ -	8*s.* to 10*s.*	7*s.* to 10*s.*	10*s.*
Bricklayers - - „ „ -	8*s.* to 10*s.*	7*s.* to 10*s.*	10*s.*
Carpenters - - „ „ -	7*s.* to 8*s.*	7*s.* to 10*s.*	8*s.* to 11*s.*
Blacksmiths - - „ „ -	8*s.* to 10*s.*	7*s.* 10*d.* to 10*s.*	10*s.* to 12*s.*
SERVANTS—MALES AND MARRIED COUPLES.			
Married couples, without family - - per annum, with board and lodging - -	50*l.* to 70*l.*	55*l.* to 65*l.*	60*l.* to 90*l.*
Married couples, with family - - „ „ „ -	40*l.* to 60*l.*	45*l.* to 55*l.*	40*l.* to 50*l.*
Men cooks, on farms and stations - - per week „ -	20*s.* to 25*s.*	15*s.* to 20*s.*	40*l.* to 60*l.* per annum
Grooms - - - per annum „ -	40*l.* to 55*l.*	25*l.* to 50*l.*	40*l.* to 50*l.*
Gardeners - - „ „ -	45*l.* to 52*l.*	20*s.* to 28*s.* per week.	20*s.* to 25*s.* per week.
SERVANTS—FEMALE.			
Cooks - - per annum, with board and lodging	35*l.* to 45*l.*	25*l.* to 40*l.*	35*l.* to 60*l.*
Laundresses - „ „ „ -	30*l.* to 35*l.*	20*l.* to 30*l.*	30*l.* to 40*l.*
General servants - „ „ „ -	18*l.* to 30*l.*	20*l.* to 30*l.*	25*l.* to 35*l.*
Housemaids - „ „ „ -	18*l.* to 25*l.*	20*l.* to 30*l.*	26*l.* to 36*l.*
Nursemaids - „ „ „ -	12*l.* to 25*l.*	12*l.* to 20*l.*	20*l.* to 35*l.*
MISCELLANEOUS LABOUR.			
General labourers - per day, without rations -	5*s.* to 6*s.*	5*s.* to 7*s.*	6*s.* to 7*s.*
Stonebreakers - per cubic yard, without rations	2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.*	1*s.* to 3*s.*	1*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.*
Seamen - - per month, with rations -	4*l.* to 4*l.* 10*s.*	4*l.* to 5*l.*	5*l.* to 6*l.*

98. The prices in Melbourne of the principal articles of consumption at the same periods are quoted as follow. The cost of groceries, wines, spirits, &c. is naturally higher, and the cost of farm produce lower, in country districts:— Prices.

Prices in Melbourne, 1863, 1868, 1873.

Articles.	1863.	1868.	1873.
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.‡			
Wheat - - - per bushel	4*s.* 9*d.* to 6*s.* 8*d.*	5*s.* to 9*s.* 6*d.*	4*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* 3*d.*
Barley - - - „	4*s.* 3*d.* to 6*s.*	3*s.* to 6*s.* 9*d.*	3*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* 6*d.*
Oats - - - „	4*s.* 3*d.* to 6*s.* 3*d.*	3*s.* 3*d.* to 4*s.* 9*d.*	3*s.* 1*d.* to 5*s.* 7*d.*
Maize - - - „	4*s.* 9*d.* to 5*s.* 10*d.*	3*s.* 8*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*	2*s.* 10*d.* to 5*s.* 3*d.*
Bran - - - „	1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 7*d.*	1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 7*d.*	11*d.* to 1*s.* 7½*d.*
Hay - - - per ton	5*l.* to 8*l.* 10*d.*	3*l.* 10*s.* to 8*l.* 10*s.*	3*l.* 5*s.* to 7*l.* 15*s.*
Flour, first quality -	10*l.* 10*s.* to 15*l.* 10*s.*	12*l.* 10*s.* to 22*l.*	12*l.* to 15*l.*
Bread - - - per 4lb. loaf	5½*d.* to 8*d.*	8*d.* to 10*d.*	6*d.* to 8*d.*

* *See also* paragraph 216, *post.* † *See also* paragraph 217, *post.*
‡ *See also* paragraph 212, *post.*

Articles.	1863.	1868.	1873.
GRAZING PRODUCE.			
Horses, draught - - each	15*l.* to 60*l.*	8*l.* to 42*l.*	9*l.* to 40*l.*
„ saddle - - „	8*l.* to 30*l.*	2*l.* to 28*l.*	4*l.* to 35*l.*
Cattle, fat - - - „	3*l.* to 10*l.*	3*l.* to 10*l.* 5*s.*	4*l.* 10*s.* to 14*l.*
„ milch cows - - „	3*l.* to 7*l.*	4*l.* to 12*l.*	5*l.* to 11*l.*
Sheep, fat - - - „	9*s.* 6*d.* to 17*s.* 6*d.*	3*s.* to 12*s.*	8*s.* to 20*s.* 6*d.*
Lambs, fat - - - „	5*s.* to 13*s.*	2*s.* 9*d.* to 8*s.*	5*s.* 6*d.* to 12*s.*
Butchers' meat, beef, retail - per lb.	4*d.* to 7*d.*	2*d.* to 6½*d.*	4*d.* to 8*d.*
„ mutton „ - „	3*d.* to 6*d.*	1½*d.* to 4½*d.*	2½*d.* to 5*d.*
„ veal „ - „	7*d.* to 8*d.*	6*d.*	—
„ pork „ - „	8*d.* to 10*d.*	8*d.* to 9*d.*	6*d.* to 9*d.*
„ lamb „ - per qrtr.	3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*	3*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*	—
DAIRY PRODUCE.			
Butter, colonial, retail - per lb.	11*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*	8*d.* to 1*s.* 7*d.*	8*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*
„ imported salt, wholesale - - „	5½*d.* to 1*s.* 3½*d.*	8*d.* to 1*s.*	5½*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.*
Cheese, colonial, retail - „	6*d.* to 8*d.*	6*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*	8*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*
„ imported, wholesale „	9*d.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*	11½*d.* to 1*s.* 2½*d.*	1*s.* to 1*s.* 1*d.*
Milk - - - - per quart	6*d.* to 10*d.*	6*d.*	6*d.*
FARM YARD PRODUCE.			
Geese - - - - per couple	7*s.* to 14*s.*	8*s.* to 14*s.*	7*s.* to 11*s.*
Ducks - - - - „	5*s.* to 8*s.*	5*s.* to 6*s.*	4*s.* 3*d.* to 7*s.*
Fowls - - - - „	5*s.* to 7*s.*	4*s.* to 6*s.* 6*d.*	3*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.*
Rabbits - - - - „	3*s.* to 6*s.*	2*s.* to 5*s.*	2*s.* to 3*s.*
Pigeons - - - - „	2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*	2*s.* to 3*s.*	2*s.* to 3*s.*
Turkeys - - - each	8*s.* to 16*s.*	4*s.* 6*d.* to 12*s.* 6*d.*	4*s.* to 11*s.*
Sucking pigs - - - „	10*s.* to 15*s.*	6*s.* 6*d.* to 11*s.*	10*s.* to 12*s.*
Bacon - - - - per lb.	11*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.*	10*d.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*	11*d.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*
Ham - - - - „	11*d.* to 1*s.* 5*d.*	1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*	1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.*
Eggs - - - - per dozen	1*s.* 3*d.* to 3*s.*	1*s.* to 2*s.* 2*d.*	1*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.* 2*d.*
GARDEN PRODUCE.			
Potatoes, wholesale - per ton.	4*l.* to 6*l.*	4*l.* 10*s.* to 7*l.*	2*l.* to 8*l.*
„ retail - - per lb.	1*d.* to 2*d.*	1*d.* to 1½*d.*	—
Onions, dried - - per cwt.	10*s.* to 25*s.*	5*s.* to 20*s.*	2*s.* to 10*s.*
Carrots - per doz. bunches	8*d.* to 1*s.* 9*d.*	6*d.* to 1*s.*	4*d.* to 9*d.*
Turnips - - „	9*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*	6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*	4*d.* to 8*d.*
Radishes - - „	4*d.* to 6*d.*	4*d.* to 6*d.*	4*d.* to 6*d.*
Cabbages - - - per doz.	4*d.* to 5*s.*	6*d.* to 6*s.*	6*d.* to 2*s.*
Cauliflowers - - - „	1*s.* 6*d.* to 8*s.*	2*s.* to 8*s.*	1*s.* to 4*s.*
Lettuces - - - „	3*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*	3*d.* to 1*s.*	3*d.* to 6*d.*
Green peas - - - per lb.	- - -	- - -	1*d.* to 2*d.*
MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.			
Tea (duty paid) - - per chest	4*l.* 10*s.* to 11*l.* 10*s.*	1*l.* 10*s.* to 13*l.*	9*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.* per lb.
Coffee (in bond) - - per lb.	10*d.* to 1*s.* 1*d.*	7½*d.* to 10½*d.*	9*d.* to 1*s.* 3½*d.*
Sugar (duty paid) - - per ton	25*l.* to 55*l.*	23*l.* 10*s.* to 51*l.*	24*l.* to 50*l.*
Rice - - - - per lb.	4*d.* to 5*d.*	3*d.* to 4*d.*	{ 16*l.* 10*s.* to 27*l.* per ton.
Tobacco (in bond) - - „	2*s.* to 6*s.* 6*d.*	4*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*	7*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.*
Soap, imported - - per ton	20*l.* to 21*l.*	28*l.*	—
„ colonial - - per cwt.	28*s.* to 32*s.*	29*s.* to 35*s.*	21*l.* to 29*l.* per ton.
Candles, tallow - - per lb.	7*d.* to 8*d.*	6*d.*	4¼*d.* to 4½*d.*
„ sperm - - „	8*d.* to 1*s.* 1*d.*	9*d.* to 1*s.* 0½*d.*	10½*d.* to 1*s.* 0½*d.*
Salt - - - - per ton	3*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.* 5*s.*	4*l.* 5*s.* to 8*l.* 10*s.*	4*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.* 10*s.*
Coals - - - - „	29*s.* to 33*s.*	26*s.*	29*s.* to 60*s.*
Firewood - - - „	12*s.*	8*s.* to 12*s.*	10*s.* 6*d.* to 14*s.*
WINES, SPIRITS, &c.			
Ale (duty paid) - - per hhd.	5*l.* 10*s.* to 8*l.* 10*s.*	4*l.* 15*s.* to 9*l.*	7*l.* 10*s.* to 10*l.*
„ „ - - per doz.	8*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* 6*d.*	7*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* 6*d.*	8*s.* 6*d.* to 13*s.*
Porter „ - - per hhd.	6*l.* to 7*l.* 10*s.*	3*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.* 15*s.*	5*l.* 5*s.* to 7*l.* 15*s.*
„ „ - - per doz.	8*s.* 3*d.* to 11*s.*	7*s.* to 10*s.*	7*s.* 9*d.* to 13*s.* 6*d.*
Brandy (in bond) - - per gall.	5*s.* to 12*s.* 6*d.*	5*s.* to 8*s.* 6*d.*	3*s.* 9*d.* to 9*s.* 3*d.*
Rum „ - - „	2*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.*	3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*	2*s.* 10½*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*
Whiskey „ - - „	3*s.* to 4*s.* 9*d.*	4*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.*	3*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.*
Hollands „ - - „	3*s.* to 4*s.*	1*s.* 10½*d.* to 5*s.*	3*s.* 1½*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*
Port wine „ - - per pipe	30*l.* to 80*l.*	20*l.* to 100*l.*	20*l.* to 100*l.*
„ (duty paid) - per doz.	24*s.* to 50*s.*	24*s.* to 50*s.*	24*s.* to 50*s.*
Sherry (in bond) - - per butt	34*l.* to 110*l.*	20*l.* to 120*l.*	20*l.* to 120*l.*
„ (duty paid) - - per doz.	25*s.* to 50*s.*	20*s.* to 70*s.*	—
Claret - - - „	8*s.* to 55*s.*	11*s.* 6*d.* to 100*s.*	11*s.* 6*d.* to 100*s.*
Champagne - - - „	20*s.* to 50*s.*	30*s.* to 80*s.*	30*s.* to 90*s.*

99. The price of gold ranged in the year under review from 3*l.* 5*s.* to 4*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* per oz. Its purity, and consequently its value, differs in different districts. It fetched most in the Ballarat district, where the price ranged from 3*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* to 4*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* per oz., and least in the Gippsland district, where the price ranged from 3*l.* 5*s.* to 3*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* per oz. Price of gold.

100. The returns of live stock imported overland have hitherto been most unsatisfactory, as, notwithstanding the registration of imported stock was made compulsory under Act 19 Vict. No. 21, it is known that large quantities of stock have each year been brought into the Colony across the Murray, and have not been officially accounted for in any way. Inspectors of live stock were, however, appointed about the end of January in the year under review, and by their agency there is no doubt that more complete returns will be available in future. From the date of the appointment of these officers to the end of 1873 they took cognizance of 13,567 horses, 86,503 head of cattle, 717,305 sheep, and 1,627 pigs which passed over the borders into Victoria. These figures are, in the case of each description of stock, largely in excess of the numbers registered during the whole year under Act No. 21. Live stock imported overland.

101. The weights and measures used in Victoria are in every respect similar to those in use in the United Kingdom. Weights and measures.

PART VI.—LAW, CRIME, ETC.

102. This Part commences with tables relating to the Transfer of Land Statute. By these it appears that the number of applications to bring land under the Act was 1,076 in 1872, and 1,149 in 1873; that the extent of land included in applications in the same years respectively was 31,595 acres and 32,502 acres, and its value 773,893*l.* and 1,128,534*l.*; that the number of certificates of title issued was 7,318 and 4,643; that the number of transactions was 30,865 and 31,906½, and the number of forms sold was 1,658 and 1,324. Transfer of Land Statute transactions.

103. The fees received in the Office of Titles in the year 1872 amounted to 17,600*l.*, and in 1873 to 17,262*l.* Fees.

104. Up to the end of 1873, the total extent of land under the Act amounted to 4,916,318 acres, valued at 10,486,920*l.* Of this, 285,557 acres, valued at 4,404,076*l.*, had been brought under the Act by application, and 4,630,761 acres, valued at 6,082,844*l.*, by grant and purchase from the Crown. The total extent alienated in Victoria up to the end of 1873 was 9,401,050 acres; and by the above figures it is seen that more than half of this area was subject to the provisions of the Transfer of Land Statute. Extent and value of land under the Act.

105. The number of transactions in Equity amounted to 507 in 1872, and to 799 in 1873. Transactions in Equity.

106. The probates issued number 392, and the letters of administration 429, in 1872; the property included in the former being sworn under 1,229,579*l.*, and that in the latter under Probates and letters of administration.

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365,199*l.* In 1873, the probates numbered 548, and the letters of administration 547; the property in the former being sworn under 1,114,798*l.*, and that in the latter under 452,292*l.*

Divorce and matrimonial.

107. Eighteen petitions for dissolution of marriage, 8 for judicial separation, and 9 for alimony, were filed in 1872, as against 17 for dissolution of marriage, 4 for judicial separation, and 5 for alimony, in 1873.

Equity fees.

108. The fees collected in the department of the Master in Equity in 1872 and 1873 were as follow:—

	1872.	1873.
	£	£
Duties on estates of deceased persons -	37,643	39,026
Equity - - - - -	1,052	1,217
Ecclesiastical - - - -	690	893
Divorce - - - - -	98	124
Miscellaneous - - - -	2	—
	39,485	41,260

Lunacy.

109. The moneys collected in the department of the Master in Lunacy in the same two years were as follow:—

	1872.	1873.
	£	£
Collected on behalf of lunatic patients -	4,372	1,120
Per-centage paid into Treasury - -	631	718
Paid into Treasury on account of maintenance - - - -	3,402	2,822
Fees - - - - - -	89	69
	8,494	4,729

Insolvency.

110. The number of insolvents was 804 in 1872, and 672 in 1873. In the former year the liabilities amounted to 696,868*l.*, and the assets to 222,770*l.*, leaving a deficiency of 474,098*l.* In the latter year the liabilities amounted to 330,337*l.*, and the assets to 188,351*l.*, leaving a deficiency of 141,986*l.* The court fees amounted to 2,495*l.* in 1872, and to 2,842 in 1873.

Intestacy.

111. The intestate estates dealt with by the curator in 1873 numbered 347, of which 236 were fresh estates, and 111 estates

remaining from former years. The estimated value of the fresh estates was 31,408*l.* The sums received by the curator during the year amounted in the aggregate to 31,543*l.*, and the sums paid to 17,553*l.*

Persons taken into custody.

112. The persons taken into custody by the Victorian police in the last two years, and the manner in which they were dealt with, are given in the following table:—

Persons arrested by Police, 1872 *and* 1873.

	1872.			1873.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Taken into custody -	23,705	19,031	4,674	24,959	19,911	5,048
Discharged by magistrates - - -	7,473	5,956	1,517	7,262	5,724	1,538
Summarily convicted, or held to bail - -	15,544	12,442	3,102	16,968	13,530	3,438
Committed for trial -	688	633	55	729	657	72

Sexes of persons arrested.

113. Both in the year under review and the former one four-fifths of the persons taken into custody were males, and one-fifth were females.

Persons arrested, how dealt with.

114. Of the persons taken into custody in 1872, 31 per cent. were discharged by magistrates, 66 per cent. were summarily convicted or held to bail, and 3 per cent. were committed for trial. Of those taken into custody in 1873, 29 per cent. were discharged by magistrates, 68 per cent. were summarily convicted or held to bail, and 3 per cent. were committed for trial.

Sexes of persons commited for trial.

115. Ninety-two per cent. of those committed for trial in 1872 were males, and 8 per cent. were females. In the year under review, 90 per cent. of those committed for trial were males, and 10 per cent. were females.

Persons committed for trial, how dealt with.

116. Of those committed for trial in 1872, 407, or 59 per cent., were convicted and sentenced; 203, or 30 per cent., were acquitted; and 78, or 11 per cent., were not prosecuted. Of those committed for trial in 1873, 476, or 65 per cent., were convicted and sentenced; 201, or 28 per cent., were acquitted; and 52, or 7 per cent., were not prosecuted.

Ages of persons arrested.

117. In the year under review the persons taken into custody were of the following ages:—461 under 10 years of age; 745 between 10 and 15; 1,695 between 15 and 20; 2,379 between 20 and 25; 3,230 between 25 and 30; 7,023 between 30 and 40; 5,431 between 40 and 50; 2,763 between 50 and 60; and 1,232 upwards of 60.

Degree of education of persons arrested.

118. Of the persons taken into custody, 175, or 7 in 1,000, were possessed of superior instruction; 5,800, or 232 in 1,000, could read and write well; 14,182, or 568 in 1,000, could read only, or could read and write imperfectly; and 4,802, or 193 in

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1,000, could not read. When the census was taken no more than 111 in every 1,000 of the population of 5 years and upwards, and only 90 in 1,000 of those of 15 years and upwards, were unable to read. Persons falling into the hands of the police are therefore evidently worse instructed on the average than the general population.

Birthplaces of persons arrested.

119. In order to determine the relative criminality of persons of the different nationalities of which the population is composed, I have compared the numbers taken into custody of each nationality with the total numbers of the same nationality living at the last census, and the result is given in the following table :—

Birthplaces of Persons arrested, and Population.

Birthplaces.	Numbers taken into Custody, 1873.	Proportions per 1,000 of Population at last Census.
England - - - - -	7,514	46
Ireland - - - - -	8,472	84
Scotland - - - - -	2,470	44
Wales - - - - -	286	43
Victoria - - - - -	2,916	9
Other British possessions - - -	1,229	38
United States - - - -	313	129
France - - - - -	128	109
Germany - - - - -	340	37
Spain and Italy - - - -	42	46
China - - - - -	843	47
Other countries - - - -	403	52½

Relative numbers of different birthplaces.

120. It will be observed that, relatively to their numbers in the population, more citizens of the United States were arrested in the year under review than persons of any other nationality, and next to them Frenchmen; but the total numbers of both these are small, and it is probable that those who fell into the hands of the police were chiefly disorderly or runaway sailors. After these, the relatively largest numbers taken into custody were of Irish, these being nearly twice as great as those of persons born in either England, Scotland, or Wales. The Chinese arrested were relatively rather more numerous than the English. The Victorians arrested were relatively less numerous than persons of any other nationality, this being no doubt mainly due to the large proportion of children embraced in their numbers, and the same circumstance may partially account for the small relative number of persons of "other British possessions," including the other Australian Colonies, arrested. It will be noticed that the Germans arrested were relatively less numerous than even these, or than natives of any other country except Victoria.

Religions of persons arrested.

121. The relative number of criminals amongst persons of different religions is similarly determined by comparison of the

numbers taken into custody with the figures of the population at the last census:—

Religions of Persons arrested, and Population.

Religions.	Numbers taken into Custody, 1873.	Proportion per 1,000 of Population at last Census.
Protestants	14,074	27
Roman Catholics	9,852	58
Jews	67	19
Mahometans	25	200
Pagans	850	48

122. According to these figures, one-fifth of all the Mahometans in the Colony were taken into custody in 1873, but the whole number at the census was only 125, and the 25 arrested were probably Lascar sailors. The Roman Catholics arrested were relatively twice as numerous as the Protestants, three times as numerous as the Jews, and 21 per cent. more numerous than the Pagans.

Relative numbers of different religions.

123. The following are the sentences passed on the persons tried and convicted in the year under review and the previous one:—

Sentences on persons convicted.

	1872.	1873.
Death	9	2*
Death recorded	3	1
10 to 14 years hard labour	6	16
7 to 10 years „	10	18
4 to 7 years „	58	61
Under 4 years „	160	61
2 years and upwards imprisonment		87
1 year to 2 years „	75	120
6 months to 12 months „	38	44
1 month to 6 months „	28	38
Under 1 month „	14	17
Detained during pleasure	3	1
Held to bail	1	6
Fined	2	4
Total	407	476

124. Subjoined are some of the principal offences for which arrests have been made and the number of arrests for such offences in 1863, 1868, and the year under review. Although the whole population has much increased since the first-named period, it is

Offences for which persons were arrested.

* Five men were executed in 1873, three of these must have been arrested in 1872.

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doubtful whether much increase has taken place at the ages at which crimes are generally committed*:—

	1863.	1868.	1873.
Murder and attempt at murder	79	31	25
Manslaughter	22	22	20
Attempt to injure or maim	66	55	59
Rape, attempt at rape, and indecent assault	81	72	74
Sodomy and bestiality	18	14	12
Assaults (not with intent to rob)	958	1,226	1,135
Obstructing constables, rescuing, &c.	168	168	273
Other offences against the person	59	87	118
Burglary, housebreaking, &c.	127	161	117
Robbery, assault with intent to commit robbery, &c.	152	108	64
Cattle, horse, sheep stealing, illegally using, &c.	181	183	136
Larceny	2,758	2,656	2,211
Arson	31	34	26
Wilful damage to property	734	717	607
Disorderly characters, prostitutes	539	334	274
Drunkenness	9,117	9,743	11,195
Obscene, threatening language	1,224	1,365	1,238
Riot, breach of the peace, &c.	397	1,361	204
Vagrancy	1,550	1,502	1,146
Other grounds of arrest	3,994	4,545	6,025
Total	22,255	24,384	24,959

Supreme Court criminal sessions.

125. The number of criminal cases tried in the Supreme Court in 1872 was 423, viz., 323 for felonies and 100 for misdemeanors. In 1873 the number tried was 326, viz., 230 for felonies and 96 for misdemeanors. The number of convictions in 1872 was 308, viz., 235 for felonies and 73 for misdemeanors. The number in 1873 was 222, viz., 157 for felonies and 65 for misdemeanors.

General Sessions.

126. The number of persons tried for criminal offences in the Courts of General Sessions was 206 in 1872, and 346 in 1873. The number of convictions was 122 in the former year, and 228 in the latter.

Supreme Court civil sittings.

127. The causes entered in the Supreme Court for assessment of damages and trial numbered 261 in 1872, and 206 in 1873, the amount of damages laid being 180,660*l.* and 172,196*l.* The number of causes tried was 182 in 1872, and 132 in 1873, and the amount awarded by the jury was 23,020*l.* in the former year, and 52,408*l.* in the latter.

County Courts.

128. County Courts were held at 59 places in 1872 and 60 places in 1873. The number of causes tried in those two years respectively was 10,705 and 11,249; the aggregate amounts sued for were 268,369*l.* and 232,771*l.*, and the aggregate amounts recovered were 92,598*l.* and 85,726*l.*

Court of Mines.

129. The places at which Courts of Mines were held numbered 33 in 1872 and 31 in 1873. The suits numbered 122 in the

* Between the censuses of 1861 and 1871 there was a falling off of the male population between 20 and 35 years of age to the extent of 48,766, and of the female population between 25 and 30 years of age to the extent of 1,394. *See* Report by the Government Statist on the census of Victoria, 1871, pp. 12 and 13.

former year and 102 in the latter, the aggregate amount or value of demand was 105,746*l.* in the former year and 221,900*l.* in the latter.

130. In 1872 and 1873 respectively Courts of Petty Sessions were held at 179 and 184 places. The number of persons brought before them for indictable offences was 2,110 and 1,996, of whom 721 and 795 were committed for trial. The number of persons brought before them for other offences was 41,618 and 41,133, of whom 26,390 and 27,041 were summarily convicted. The number of civil cases heard was 29,850 and 21,147, the aggregate amounts of debts or damages claimed were 176,043 and 107,258*l.*, and the aggregate amounts awarded were 97,789*l.*, and 65,886. Courts of Petty Sessions.

131. The writs issued in the year under review numbered 1,386; those issued in the preceding year numbered 1,723. Writs.

132. Four criminals were executed for murder and one for rape in the year under review. Of these, 1 was a native of England, 1 of New South Wales, 1 of France, 1 of the West Indies, and 1 was born at sea; 1 was a member of the Church of England, 1 of the Wesleyan Church, and 3 were Roman Catholics. In the 10 years prior to the year under review 39 executions took place. In 36 cases the offence was murder, in 2 attempt at murder, and in 1 case sodomy. No native of Victoria was executed during the whole period, and in only one case a female. This was the sole instance of a female being executed since the first settlement of the colony. Executions.

133. The following table shows the state of the gaols and penal establishments in Victoria during the year under notice and the previous one:— Gaols and Penal Establishments.

Gaols and Penal Establishments, 1872 *and* 1873.

GAOLS.

Year.	Number of Institutions.	Average Number of Prisoners.			Number of Cases of Sickness.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Punishments for Offences within the Institution.
		Males.	Females.	Total.			
1872 -	10	642½	234	876½	3,139	24	867
1873 -	10	624½	238	862½	3,294	21	739

PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

Year.	Number of Institutions.	Average Number of Prisoners.			Number of Cases of Sickness.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Punishments for Offences within the Institution.
		Males.	Females.	Total.			
1872 -	3	713	—	713	922	8	1,218
1873 -	3	706	—	706	770	7	1,123

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Ages, birthplaces, religions of prisoners.

134. The aggregate number of persons who passed through all the gaols in the year under review was 9,821, and the number who passed through all the penal establishments was 1,518. It is probable, however, that some of these were merely transferred from one establishment to another, and therefore that the actual number of distinct prisoners was less than this. The ages, religions, and birthplaces of the respective prisoners were recorded at each institution they passed through, with the following results :—

Ages, Birthplaces, and Religions of Prisoners, 1873.

AGES.

Confined in—	Total Number of Prisoners.	Under 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 55.	55 and upwards.	Unspecified.
Gaols - - -	9,821	15	383	2,044	2,695	2,444	1,365	871	4
Penal Establishments.	1,518	—	1	336	445	361	241	134	—

BIRTHPLACES.

Confined in—	Total Number of Prisoners.	Australian Colonies.	England and Wales.	Ireland.	Scotland.	Other British Possessions.	Foreign Countries other than China.	China.
Gaols - - -	9,821	1,989	3,246	2,789	824	116	400	457
Penal Establishments.	1,518	197	690	252	112	37	134	96

RELIGIONS.

Confined in—	Total Number of Prisoners.	Church of England.	Presbyterians.	Wesleyans.	Independents.	Baptists.	Other Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Jews.	Pagans.	Other Denominations.	No Religion.	Religion unknown.
Gaols - - -	9,821	4,007	945	322	25	55	132	3,822	35	453	7	16	2
Penal Establishments.	1,518	714	129	157	5	8	17	367	18	95	8	—	—

Reformatories, birthplaces and religions.

135. The returns of birthplaces and religions of children in reformatories are given in this part of the statistics. From these it appears that 159 children were inmates of reformatories at the end of 1873. Of these 144 were natives of the Australian Colonies, 6 of England and Wales, 1 of Ireland, 1 of Scotland, 1 was born at sea, and of 6 the birthplace was unknown. Seventy-eight, or nearly half the number, were set down as Roman Catholics, 31 as members of the Church of England, 8 as Presbyterians, 4 as

Wesleyans, 1 as a Baptist, 36 as other Protestants, and 1 as a Jew.

136. The number of inquests in the year under review was 1,566 as against 1,512 in the former year. In 1873, according to the verdicts, 710 of the deaths were from natural causes, 36 from intemperance, 759 from external causes, 55 from unspecified or doubtful causes, and in 6 instances verdicts of still-born were returned. Of the deaths from external causes, 593 were held to have resulted from accident, 7 from homicide, 95 from suicide, 5 from execution, and 59 from doubtful causes. Inquests.

137. Ten fire inquests were held in the year under review as against 21 in the former year. In five instances, out of the 10 which occurred in 1873, the verdict of the jury was that the fire had been occasioned purposely, and in one instance an open verdict was returned. Fire inquests.

PART VII.—RELIGIOUS, MORAL, AND INTELLECTUAL PROGRESS.

138. The number of buildings of all descriptions used for public worship in 1873 was 2,284. Of these 1,464 were regular churches or chapels, and 820 were schoolhouses or other public or private buildings. The approximate number of services held during the year was 182,528; the number of persons the buildings were calculated to hold was 368,890; and the number of persons usually attending at the principal weekly service was 243,591. Churches and chapels.

139. The following are the number of edifices used for worship by each religious sect, and the amount of accommodation afforded:— Churches and chapels of each sect.

Churches and Chapels, 1873.

Religious Denomination.	Churches, Chapels, &c., 1873. Number of Buildings.	Persons for whom there is Accommodation.
Church of England - - -	407	63,115
Roman Catholics - - - -	315	63,000
Presbyterians - - - -	553	67,455
Wesleyans - - - - -	736	128,974
Independents - - - -	97	15,818
Baptists - - - - -	65	12,905
Evangelical Lutherans - - -	43	3,700
Welsh Calvinists - - - -	7	1,270
Church of Christ - - - -	33	6,490
Other Christians - - - -	17	2,893
Jews - - - - -	7	1,670
Other sects - - - -	4	1,600
Total - - -	2,284	368,890

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Sabbath schools.

140. Nearly all the denominations have Sabbath schools. The total number in 1873 was 1,390, the number of teachers was 11,851, and the number of scholars was 111,973.

Sabbath schools of each sect.

141. The following figures show the number of Sabbath schools attached to each religious sect, the number of teachers and the number of scholars :—

Sabbath Schools, 1873.

	Number of Sabbath Schools.	Number of Teachers.	Number of Scholars.
Church of England - -	2 64	2,132	20,381
Roman Catholics - -	1 73	937	12,113
Presbyterians - - -	3 11	2,085	24,891
Wesleyans - - -	481	5,180	42,786
Independents - - -	63	698	4,970
Baptists - - - -	51	477	4,145
Evangelical Lutherans - -	13	50	530
Welsh Calvinists - -	7	81	611
Church of Christ - -	12	135	950
Other Christians - -	8	25	216
Jews - - - -	5	20	246
Other sects - - -	2	31	134
Total	1,390	11,851	111,973

Melbourne University.

142. The number of graduates at the Melbourne University from the date of its first opening to the end of 1873 was 367, of whom 186 graduated direct and 181 *ad eundem.* The following were the degrees granted :—B.A., 126; M.A., 107; M.B., 27; M.D., 67; LL.B., 30; and LL.D., 10.

Matriculated students.

143. The number of students who matriculated from the opening of the university to the end of the year under notice was 712; of these 98 matriculated within the year.

Students attending lectures.

144. The number of students who attended lectures in the year under review was 133, of whom 131 were matriculated and two non-matriculated. The latter attended lectures on medicine only; of the former 47 attended lectures in art, 45 in laws, 13 in engineering, and 26 in medicine.

University receipts and expenditure.

145. The total receipts of the university in the year 1873 amounted to 11,642*l.*, of which 6,750*l.* was derived from Government aid, 4,705*l.* from college fees, and 187*l.* from other sources. The total expenditure was 12,530*l.*

Schools, teachers, and scholars.

146. The number of schools in Victoria fell off from 1,936 in 1872 to 1,731 in 1873, but the number of scholars increased from 160,743 to 226,254. As the present Education Act (36 Vict. No. 447) came into operation on the 1st January 1873, it may be interesting to compare the results of that year and the previous one, in order to ascertain the effect of the new system in relation to both public and private schools :—

Schools, Teachers, and Scholars, 1872 *and* 1873.

Year.	Schools assisted by the State.				Schools unassisted by the State.		
	Total Number.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Scholars.		Total Number.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Scholars.
			On the Rolls.	Distinct Children (estimated).			
1872 - -	1,048	2,416	135,962	118,498	888	1,841	24,781
1873 - -	1,078	3,149	207,826	181,131	653	1,446	18,428
Increase -	30	733	71,864	62,633	—	—	—
Decrease -	—	—	—	—	235	395	6,353

147. It thus appears that during the first year from the date of the new Act coming into force the net decrease of schools was 205; the net increase of instructors was 338, and, if the first column shown the head of "scholars in schools assisted by the State," as in the above table, be used as the basis of the calculation, the net increase of scholars was 65,511, or 56,280 if the second column be so used. Decrease of schools, increase of teachers, and scholars.

148. The sexes of the scholars in public and private schools at the two periods are thus shown:— Sexes of scholars.

Public Schools.

——	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
1872 - -	73,826	62,136	135,962
1873 - -	109,560	98,266	207,826
Increase -	35,734	36,130	71,864

Private Schools.

——	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
1872 - -	11,186	13,595	24,781
1873 - -	8,400	10,028	18,428
Decrease -	2,786	3,567	6,353

149. Seven of the schools included in both years with those not connected with the State were colleges or grammar schools, and five of these at some former period received sums from Government for the erection of school buildings. Two of these establishments are connected with the Church of England, three with the Presbyterian Church, one with the Wesleyan Methodist Colleges and grammar schools.

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Church, and one with the Roman Catholic Church; they had in all 1,230 pupils, all boys, 288 of whom were boarders and 942 day scholars. In connexion with several of these institutions there are exhibitions, chiefly with a view of assisting the ablest pupils to complete their education at the University.

Melbourne Public Library.

150. The Melbourne Public Library was erected at a cost of over a hundred thousand pounds (100,290*l.*). The amount of aid it received from the Government from the time of its foundation being laid to the end of 1873 was 192,683*l.* The private contributions, consisting chiefly of books, pamphlets, works of art, and miscellaneous objects, numbered in all 59,894. Of these, 36,216 were donations, and 23,678 were deposited under the Copyright Statute. The estimated value of these contributions is 10,450*l.* The institution is kept open to the public, free of charge, on week days from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and was visited in 1873 by 229,362 persons.

National Gallery.

151. The National Gallery is in the same building as the Melbourne Public Library. It contained at the end of 1873, 68 oil paintings, 158 statues and works of art, and 5,625 water-colour drawings, engravings, photographs, &c. Besides the general public, who are admitted without charge on week days between the hours of noon and 5 p.m. in summer, and noon and 4 p.m. in winter, it was attended in 1873 by 57 male and 118 female students.

Industrial and Technological Museum.

152. The Industrial and Technological Museum is in the same building, and is open to the public during the same hours as the last-named institution. It contained at the end of 1873, 162 publications, 13,835 specimens, and 107 drawings. Class lectures given in 1873 on chemistry were attended by 37 students, on mining and mineralogy by 8 students, on mathematics by 14 students, and on telegraphy by 63 students.

National Museum.

153. The National Museum is in a building attached to the Melbourne University. It is open to the public, without payment, on week days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and was visited by 89,491 persons in 1873. The cost of erecting the building was 8,475*l.*, and the amount spent in maintenance during 1873 was 1,887*l.*

Supreme Court Library.

154. The Supreme Court Library is supported by fees paid by barristers and attorneys on admission to practise at the Supreme Court, and is free to both branches of the legal profession. Besides the library in Melbourne there are nine branches in circuit, towns. The total number of volumes at the end of 1873 was 11,454 and the amount expended from the commencement was 9,778*l.*

Mechanics' Institutes, &c.

155. Free libraries, athenæums, or mechanics' or literary institutes exist in most of the towns of the Colony. These institutions numbered 120 in 1873, and nearly a million visits to them were recorded during the year. The number of volumes they possessed at the same period was 162,542, of which 14,314 were presented by private persons. The cost of the buildings was 83,963*l.*, the amount of aid received from Government from the first commencement was 46,667*l.*, and the amount from private sources was 144,155*l.*

Hospitals.

156. Thirty general hospitals and one lying-in hospital, containing in all 224 wards, of an aggregate measurement of 2,072,111 cubic feet, existed in Victoria during 1873. The number of beds made up in these institutions was 1,962. The number of persons

relieved in-doors during the year was 14,520, and out-doors 48,854. The average number of in-door patients at one time was 1,426. The total receipts during the year amounted to 103,255*l.*, of which 63,773*l.* was granted by Government, and the total expenditure to 105,990*l.*

Benevolent Asylums.

157. Including the Melbourne Immigrants' Home, the benevolent asylums in Victoria numbered 6 in the year under notice. One of these institutions, the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum, is also a lying-in hospital. The institutions contained in all 160 wards, of an aggregate measurement of 1,176,459 cubic feet, and made up 1,634 beds. The number of persons relieved in-doors was 10,384; the number out-doors 56,239; and the average number of inmates was 1,612. The receipts, of which 25,136*l.* was from Government, amounted to 38,629*l.*, and the expenditure to 43,206*l.*

Orphan Asylums.

158. There are 6 orphan asylums in Victoria, 2 of which are Protestant, 3 Roman Catholic, and 1 mixed. These institutions contain 65 wards, with 691,560 cubic feet of space, and make up 1,153 beds. The children who passed through them in 1873 numbered 1,181, viz., 695 boys and 486 girls. The average number of inmates at one time was 975. The total amount received during the year was 19,606*l.*, of which 13,846*l.* was from Government, and the total expenditure was 21,897.

Birthplaces and religions in charitable institutions.

159. The following are the birthplaces and religions of inmates of hospitals, benevolent asylums, and orphanages during the year under review :—

Birthplaces and Religions in Charitable Institutions, 1873.

—	Hospitals.	Benevolent Asylums.	Orphan Asylums.
BIRTHPLACES.			
Australian Colonies - - -	3,202	1,442	999
England and Wales - - -	5,084	4,719	43
Ireland - - - - -	3,611	2,848	32
Scotland - - - - -	1,292	956	27
Other British Possessions - -	205	123	5
Foreign Countries, exclusive of China -	787	250	1
China - - - - -	256	28	—
Unknown - - - -	83	18	74
Total - -	14,520	10,384	1,181
RELIGIONS.			
Church of England - - -	6,043	5,565	131
Presbyterians - - - -	1,683	1,109	51
Wesleyans - - - -	1,008	341	45
Independents - - - -	109	70	3
Baptists - - - -	195	88	-
Other Protestants and Protestants of sects unknown - - -	589	77	398
Roman Catholics - - -	4,425	3,028	541
Jews - - - - -	33	6	—
Pagans - - - - -	248	26	—
Other Persuasions - - -	76	70	—
No Religion and Religion unknown -	111	4	12

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Lunatic Asylums.

160. In the year under review there were 4 public lunatic asylums and one public receiving house for the insane in Victoria. These contained 434 wards or rooms, with 2,277,485 cubic feet of space, and made up 2,497 beds. The number of lunatics who passed through these asylums, including as a separate patient each lunatic transferred from one asylum to another, was 3,229. The average number of patients at one time was 2,304. The amount received from Government was 82,882*l.*; the amount from other sources was 2,822*l.*: making a total received from all sources of 85,704*l.*

Birthplaces and religions.

161. Of the lunatic patients, 170 were natives of the Australian Colonies, 841 of England and Wales, 1,063 of Ireland, 274 of Scotland, 35 of other British Possessions, 114 of Foreign Conntries (exclusive of China), 70 of China, and 662 of places unknown. Seven hundred and twenty-one of the number were members of the Church of England, 300 were Presbyterians, 59 were Wesleyans, 11 were Independents, 28 were Baptists, 460 were other Protestants and Protestants of sects unknown, 1,112 were Roman Catholics, 38 were Jews, 69 were Pagans, 16 were of other persuasions, and 415 were of no religion or religion unknown.

Private Lunatic Asylum.

162. Besides the Government asylums, the private lunatic asylum at Cremorne contains 32 wards, with a capacity of 138,600 cubic feet, makes up 30 beds, and accommodated in all 53 patients, or on the average 15 at one time during the year.

Industrial and Reformatory Schools.

163. Nine industrial and reformatory schools existed during the year. These institutions had 57 wards, containing 1,012,764 feet of space, and made up 1,799 beds. They received during the year 58,841*l.*, all of which, except 3,937*l.* was from Government, and expended 56,356*l.*

Birthplaces and religions.

164. The children who passed through the industrial schools during 1873 amounted to 3,109, the average at one time being 2,030; and the children who passed through reformatories amounted to 244, the average at one period being 161. The number of children in industrial schools at the end of 1873 was 1,681. Of these 1,450 were born in the Australian Colonies, 19 in England and Wales, 16 in Ireland, 2 in Scotland, 1 at sea, and of 193 the birthplace was unknown. Four hundred and thirty-seven of them were members of the Church of England, 101 were Presbyterians, 57 were Wesleyans, 2 were Independents, 7 were Baptists, 240 were other Protestants and Protestants of sects unknown, 806 were Roman Catholics, 1 was a Lutheran, and 30 were of no religion or religion unknown.

Deaf and Dumb Institution.

165. The Deaf and Dumb Institution contains 4 wards, having a total capacity of 71,284 cubic feet, and makes up 120 beds. The total number of inmates during the year was 83, the average at one time being 73. It received during the year 2,629*l.*, of which 1,615*l.* was from Government, and expended 2,512*l.*

School for the Blind.

166. The school for the blind has 6 wards or rooms, containing 90,814 cubic feet, and makes up 104 beds. It accommodated 102 inmates in all during the year, the average at one time being 96.

The receipts during the year amounted to 2,781, of which 830*l.* was from Government, and the expenditure amounted to 3,463*l.*

Birthplaces and religions.

167. Of the 102 persons who passed through the school for the blind during 1873, 78 were Australians by birth, 11 were English or Welsh, 4 were Irish, 2 were Scotch, 1 was a native of other British possessions, 3 were of Foreign countries (not China), and 3 were of birthplace unknown; 37 belonged to the Church of England, 21 were Presbyterians, 8 were Wesleyans, 2 were Independents, 2 were Baptists, 10 were other Protestants or Protestants of unknown sects, 16 were Roman Catholics, 2 were Jews, and 4 were of other persuasions.

Eye and Ear Institution.

168. The Eye and Ear Institution contains three wards or rooms, and makes up 19 beds. It relieved 134 in-patients and 1,575 out-patients during the year. The amount received from Government was 400*l.*; from public subscriptions, 446*l.*; and in support of the building fund, 174*l.* The amount expended was 956*l.*

Birthplaces and religions.

169. Of the 134 in-patients of this institution, 44 were born in Australia, 33 in England and Wales, 41 in Ireland, 11 in Scotland, and 5 in Foreign countries (not China); 44 belonged to the Church of England, 12 were Presbyterians, 10 were Wesleyans, 5 were independents, 2 were Baptists, 2 were other Protestants, 55 were Roman Catholics, 2 were Jews, and 2 were of no religion or religion unknown.

Refuges.

170. There are four female refuges in Victoria, containing 51 wards or rooms, having 119,860 cubic feet of space, and making up 184 beds; 315 women passed through these institutions during the year, the average at one period being 145. The receipts in 1873 amounted to 7,348*l.*, of which 1,170*l.* was from Government, and the expenditure was 7,580*l.*

Melbourne Home.

171. The Melbourne Home for governesses, needlewomen, and servants, contains 20 wards or rooms, with 22,694 feet of space, and makes up 221 beds. It accommodated 221 inmates during the year. The receipts during 1873, all from private sources, amounted to 624*l.*, and the expenditure to 591*l.*

Free dispensaries.

172. Four free dispensaries furnished returns for 1873. These treated 6,140 persons, viz., 2,228 males and 3,912 females, during the year. The receipts amounted to 782*l.*, of which 150*l.* was from Government, and the expenditure was 945*l.*

Benevolent Societies.

173. Thirty benevolent or philanthropic societies sent in returns for the year under review. These institutions are mostly conducted by ladies. The persons relieved during the year numbered 11,463; the receipts amounted to 12,892*l.*, of which 5,815*l.* was from Government, and the expenditure to 12,605*l.*

Children's Hospital.

174. The Melbourne Hospital for Sick Children has 4 wards or rooms, with a capacity of 8,897 cubic feet, and makes up 20 beds. The receipts in 1873 amounted to 492*l.*, of which 200*l.* was from Government, and the expenditure to 675*l.*

Sailors' Home.

175. The Melbourne Sailors' Home contains 102 rooms or wards, with 84,371 cubic feet of space, and makes up 102 beds. The total number of inmates in 1873 was 1,533; the amount

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received, all from private sources, was 2,817*l.*, and the amount expended was 2,829*l.*

Retreat for Inebriates.

176. A retreat for inebriates was opened at Northcote, near Melbourne, in October 1873. Between that period and the close of the year 5 patients were treated 4 of whom were remaining in the institution at the end of the year; 4 of the patients entered voluntarily, and 1 on compulsion; all had had delirium tremens, and all used tobacco; 3 of the 5 had had intemperate parents; 2 were ordered to be detained for one month, 2 for three months, and 1 for six months; 3 were educated at common schools, and 2 at a university; 3 were married and 2 were single; 1 was born in Victoria, 2 in England, and 2 in Scotland; 1 was a book-keeper, 1 a clergyman, 1 an ironmonger, 1 a publican, and 1 a student; they were all between 23 and 48 years of age.

PART VIII.—PRODUCTION.

Land granted and sold, 1873.

177. The extent of Crown land sold in the year under review was 529,309 acres, and the extent granted without purchase was 1,575 acres.

Land sold by auction and otherwise.

178. Of the land sold 19,877 acres were bought at, or selected after, auction; the remainder was selected under the occupation clauses of successive Land Acts.

Land alienated and unalienated in the colony.

179. The total extent alienated from the Crown up to the end of 1873 was 9,401,050* acres, of which 3,200 acres were granted without purchase. Taking the area of the Colony as 56,446,720 acres, the extent remaining unalienated at the end of the year 1873 was 47,045,670 acres.

Amount realised on land sales.

180. The amount realized on lands sold in 1873 was 621,472*l.*, or 1*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, on the average, per acre. Of this amount only about 113,000*l.* was paid during the year. The remainder was paid in former years, chiefly as rent, in annual instalments of 2*s.* per acre, these payments extending over 10 years, and thus making the total purchase money equal to 1*l.* per acre.

Amount realised on sales of land by auction.

181. The price, included in the above, realised on lands sold at, or selected after, auction was 98,580*l.*, this being at the rate of 4*l.* 19*s.* 2½*d.* per acre.

Squatting runs—number and area.

182. The number of squatting runs in 1873 was 894, and the approximate area of Crown lands embraced in runs was 25,830,641 acres, or 28,893 acres to each run.

Rent received for runs.

183. The amount of rent received for runs in the year was 140,786*l.*, or at the rate of 1·308*d.* per acre.

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* These figures do not include land of which the purchase was not completed. Whilst these pages were passing through the press, the honourable the Minister of Lands laid before Parliament a report, in which it was stated that, up to the 30th June 1874, the total extent alienated from the Crown was 14,551,268 acres. This acreage embraced not only the land of which the fee-simple had passed to the purchaser, but the area in process of alienation under the system of deferred payments. Portion of the latter may possibly revert to the Crown in consequence of the non-fulfilment of conditions, &c.

184. More than half the runholders (482) had purchased as well as Crown lands embraced in their holdings. The total number of acres of purchased land so held was 1,959,394, or an average of 4,065 acres to each holder. Purchased land attached to runs.

185. The number of runs and the extent of Crown land em braced therein have been gradually diminishing since 1864. In that year there were 1,177 runs, or 283 more than in 1873; and 30,463,999 acres of land contained in runs, or 4,633,358 acres more than in 1873. Decreased area of runs.

186. The agricultural statistics for the year under review bring the information down to the 31st March 1874. A series of tables containing the general results of these statistics were sent to the *Government Gazette* for publication on the 13th May of the same year. These tables are reprinted, and further tables are added in the present part. Agricultural Statistics.

187. The number of holdings of a larger extent than one acre according to these statistics was 36,602. In the previous year 34,596 holdings were returned; thus an addition of 2,006 to the number of occupiers took place during the year. In the year 1864–5 the holders numbered 18,355, or about half those in the year under notice. Number of holdings.

188. The occupied land amounted to 11,493,545 acres, or an increase of 781,800 acres during the year. In 1864–5 the acres occupied amounted to 6,125,204, or rather more than half those in 1873–4. Land in occupation.

189. The enclosed land amounted to 10,284,439 acres, or about an eleventh less than the land occupied; the land fenced during the year amounted to 494,847 acres. In 1864–5 the fenced land amounted to 5,030,978 acres, or about half that in the year under review. Land enclosed.

190. The number of acres placed under tillage amounted to 964,996. These figures show an addition of 1,905 to those representing the number of acres cultivated in the previous years' returns. In 1864–5 the acres in cultivation numbered 479,463, or about half the number according to the present returns. Land in cultivation.

191. Wheat covered 349,976 acres in the year under review, being an increase of 23,412 acres upon the extent under wheat in the previous year. This crop formed 34 per cent. of the whole cultivation in 1872–3, and 36 per cent. in 1873–4. The gross number of bushels returned was 5,391,104 in the former year, and 4,752,289, or 638,815 less, in the latter. The average produce per acre was thus 16·51 bushels in 1872–3, and only 13·58 bushels in 1873–4. Wheat.

192. The area under oats was 125,505 acres in 1872–3, and 110,991 acres in 1873–4. This crop amounted to 13 per cent. of the whole tillage in the former year, and to 11½ per cent. in the letter. The gross produce fell off from 2,454,225 bushels in the former year to 1,741,451 bushels in the latter, and the average produce fell off from 19½ bushels to the acre in the former year to 15⅔ bushels to the acre in the latter year. Oats.

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Barley.

193. The extent in the year under review under barley was 25,333 acres, which, notwithstanding that barley for grain has never been a favourite crop with Victorian farmers, was an increase of 4,082 acres upon the extent in the previous year. The area under this crop was equal to 2⅔ per cent. of the whole area under tillage in 1873–4, and to 2⅕ per cent. in 1872–3. The gross produce was 502,601 bushels, and the average per acre was 19·84 bushels in the year under review, as against 443,221 bushels and 20·86 bushels in the former year.

Potatoes.

194. The area under potatoes has been nearly the same in the last two years, viz., 38,517 acres in 1872–3, and 38,349 acres in 1873–4. The produce, however, was less by over 23,000 tons in the latter year than in the former, the respective amounts being 132,997 tons and 109,822 tons. The average per acre was 3·45 tons in the former year, and only 2·86 tons in the latter. The crop was equal to about 4 per cent. of the whole tillage at both periods.

Hay.

195. Hay was grown on 121,375 acres in 1872–3, and on 115,672 acres, or 5,703 acres less in 1873–4. The area under this crop was equal to rather over 12 per cent. of the whole area under tillage at the former period, and to just 12 per cent. at the latter. The gross produce fell off by 12,566 tons, viz., from 159,964 tons to 147,398 tons, and the acreable produce fell off from 1·32 tons to 1·27 tons.

Green forage.

196. Green forage covered 213,069 acres in 1873–4, or 3,780 more than in 1872–3. The area under this crop was equal to 22 per cent. of the whole area under tillage in the year under review, and to nearly 22 per cent. in the previous year.

Vines.

197. Land under vines fell off from 5,485 acres in 1872–3 to 5,222 acres in 1873–4. The total weight of grapes gathered, however, increased from 104,961 cwt. to 105,650 cwt. The wine produced increased from 527,592 gallons to 562,713 gallons, but the brandy manufacture fell off from 2,007 gallons to 100 gallons.*

Minor crops.

198. The following figures show the acreage and produce of other crops less important than those already mentioned during the season under review and the preceding one :—

		1872–3.	1873–4.
Maize	acres	1,910	1,959
	bushels	37,703	40,347
Rye and bere	acres	712	722
	bushels	9,350	7,979
Peas, beans, millet, and sorghum	acres	13,368	14,229
	bushels	236,582	199,041
Turnips	acres	251	175
	tons	1,621	1,006
Mangel-wurzel	acres	1,739	1,252
	tons	23,475	14,475

* The brandy manufactured on vineyards is not generally sold, but used for the purpose of fortifying wine.

		1872–3.	1873–4.
Beet, carrots, parsnips, and cabbage	acres	2,271	1,143
	tons	16,605	6,072
Onions	acres	417	270
	tons	3,347	1,165
Tobacco	acres	423	583
	cwt.	1,837	3,694
Buckwheat	acres	—	6
	bushels	—	32
Canary	acres	3	—
	bushels	15	—
Chicory	acres	60	43
	tons	281	245½
Clover for seed	acres	2	10
	bushels	11	60
Cocksfoot for seed	acres	—	9
	bushels	—	240
Flax	acres	16	16
	fibre, cwt.	144	95
	linseed, bushels	153	86
Hops	acres	107	131
	lbs.	60,816	83,328
Mustard (white)	acres	6	8
	cwt.	29	49
Opium poppies	acres	13	4
	lbs.	77	17
Prairie grass for seed	acres	22	35
	bushels	364	1,023
Pumpkins	acres	—	39
	tons	—	105
Rape for seed	acres	49	3
	bushels	—	220
Rye Grass for seed	acres	2,330	2,643
	bushels	30,007	30,581
Tares for seed	acres	1	7
	bushels	8	66
Teazles	acres	3	2
	cwt.	—	16
Timothy grass for seed	acres	5	—
	bushels	120	—
Vetches for seed	acres	6	5
	bushels	114	32
Yorkshire toy	acres	—	20
	bushels	—	300

199. In addition to the land under these crops, the returns of 1873–4 show 9,912 acres as under gardens, 6,148 acres under orchards, 6 acres under mulberry trees, 10 acres under olive trees, and 5 acres under osiers, as against 10,095 acres under gardens, 5,690 acres under orchards, and 5 acres under osiers, in the previous year. No return of either mulberry or olive grounds was made for the year 1872–3, although it is probable that some existed. It may be observed that the above items do not represent the whole quantity of the respective minor crops grown, but only such as were taken cognizance of by the collectors. The minor crops are often raised in gardens, in which case the various descriptions would not be distinguished. They may also be grown upon allotments of a smaller extent than one acre, and these the collectors are not called upon to visit. This portion of the returns must, Gardens, orchards, &c.

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therefore, be looked upon as indicating the nature of certain crops grown in Victoria rather than the full extent to which those crops are cultivated.

Land in fallow.

200. Land in fallow to the extent of 66,989 acres was returned in the year under review, and to the extent of 75,601 acres in the previous year.

Land tenure.

201. The following figures show the tenure under which the land was held by the farmers, and the number of acres under each tenure :—

	Acres.
Freehold land - - -	7,212,041
Purchased land rented -	1,414,221
Crown land rented for other than pastoral purposes - - -	2,867,283
Total - -	11,493,545

Purchased land occupied.

202. The freehold land and the purchased land rented taken together make up 8,626,262 acres. This amount represents the total purchased land in occupation.

Increase of land under each tenure.

203. It has been already stated that the total increase of occupied land during the year amounted to 781,800 acres. This quantity is made up of 296,349 acres of land held in freehold, of 102,725 acres of purchased land rented, and of 382,726 acres of Crown lands rented for other than pastoral purposes.

Leases of farms.

204. The average duration of leases of farms rented from private individuals, and the average amount paid per acre, were thus returned for the year under review and the former one :—

	1872–3.	1873–4.
Average duration of leases	1 year to 7 years -	1 year to 7 years.
Average rental per acre -	2*s.* to 20*s.* -	2*s.* to 17*s.*

Classification of holdings.

205. The number of holders of allotments of different sizes, and the number of acres embraced in and cultivated on such allotments, will be found in the following table:—

Classification of Holdings as to Size, 1873–4.

Sizes of Holdings.	Number of Occupiers.	Land in Occupation.	Land in Cultivation.
		acres.	acres.
1 acre to 5 acres -	1,721	5,002	2,914
5 acres to 15 acres -	3,761	32,823	15,205
15 „ 30 „ -	3,797	78,246	26,576
30 „ 50 „ -	3,465	133,106	37,463
50 „ 100 „ -	6,517	470,986	113,475
100 „ 200 „ -	7,137	1,000,735	201,058
200 „ 350 „ -	6,371	1,762,311	234,119
350 „ 500 „ -	1,346	556,680	87,341
500 „ and upwards -	2,487	7,453,656	246,845
Total - -	36,602	11,493,545	964,996

206. The average size of holdings was 310 acres in 1872–3, and 314 acres in 1873–4. Average size of holdings.

207. Lots larger than 5 acres and less than 500 acres are found to be those usually devoted to farming purposes. The average size of these was 117 acres in 1872–3, and 125 acres in 1873–4. Average size of farms.

208. In 1872–3 the average area in occupation to each person in the colony was 13·8 acres, and in 1873–4 it was 14·5 acres. Proportion occupied to each person in Victoria.

209. The average extent cultivated by each holder was 27·8 acres in 1872–3, and 26·4 acres in 1873–4. Average extent cultivated by each holder.

210. The extent of land cultivated in proportion to each person in the colony was rather over an acre and a quarter (1·27 a.) in 1872–3, and exactly an acre and a quarter in 1873–4. Proportion cultivated to each person in Victoria.

211. Nearly nine (8·99) per cent. of the occupied land was cultivated in 1872–3, and 8·40 per cent. in 1873–4. Proportion of occupied land cultivated.

212. A marked rise took place in the prices of all descriptions of agricultural produce in the year under review, as contrasted with the former one. The following are the average rates during the months of February and March in the two years:— Prices of farm produce.

*Prices of Farm Produce.**

Price of—	1872–3.	1873–4.
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*
Wheat, per bushel - - -	4 9	5 9
Oats, „ - - -	3 5	5 6
Barley, „ - - -	4 1	5 3
Maize, „ - - -	3 10	5 9
Hay, per ton - - - -	81 0	88 0
Potatoes, per ton - - -	67 4	118 3
Mangel-wurzel, per ton - - -	24 5	31 4

213. The average specific weight of crops is found to vary in different seasons. In the two last years, however, the numbers have been identical, except in the case of maize, in respect to which a variation of 1 lb. to the bushel occurred. The following are the figures:— Weight of crops.

Weight of Crops.

Weight per Bushel of—	1872–3.	1873–4.
	lbs.	lbs.
Wheat - - - - -	61	61
Oats - - - - -	40	40
Barley - - - - -	51	51
Maize - - - - -	55	56

214. The number of persons, of both sexes, employed on farms, and the number on squatting stations, during the last two years have been returned as follow:— Persons employed on farms and stations.

* See also table following paragraph 98, *ante*.

Hands employed on Farms and Stations, 1873 *and* 1873–4.

Year ended 31st March.	Number of Hands employed—								
	On Farms.			On Stations.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1873 -	52,950	24,040	76,990	4,509	1,307	5,816	57,459	25,347	82,806
1874 -	56,581	25,420	82,001	5,128	1,546	6,674	61,709	26,966	88,675

Increase in numbers employed on farms and stations.

215. This return is intended to show the number of persons actually engaged in farming and squatting pursuits, and therefore the proprietors or managers of farms and stations have been included. An increase will be observed in all the columns in the year under review as compared with the previous year. This increase amounts to 5,011, or 6½ per cent., in the case of persons on farms, and to 858, or 15 per cent., in regard to persons on stations.

Rates of labour on farms.

216. A rise in the average rates paid for most descriptions of labour employed on farms will be noticed from the following figures, which show the returns for 1872–3 and 1873–4. Rations are allowed in every case:—

*Rates of Labor on Farms.**

Description of Labour.	1872–3.	1873–4.
	s. d.	*s. d.*
Ploughmen, per week - - -	18 9	20 3
Farm labourers „ - - -	15 11	17 2
Married couples „ - - -	21 4	24 6
Females „ - - -	9 7	11 4
Mowers „ - - -	27 10	26 1
„ per acre - - -	4 10	5 6
Reapers, per week - - -	28 6	28 8
„ per acre - - -	14 3	13 4
Threshers, per bushel - - -	0 7	0 6

Rates of labour on stations.

217. A very general rise also appears in the average rates of labour on squatting stations. The following are the returns;

* See also table following paragraph 97, *ante*.

rations being always given in addition to wages, as in the case of farms:—

*Rates of Labour on Stations.**

Description of Labour.	1872–3.	1873–4.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Stockmen, per annum - - -	44 13 1	44 6 4
Shepherds „ - - -	33 14 5	36 2 5
Hutkeepers „ - - -	24 18 5	26 1 10
Married couples „ - - -	53 4 1	61 5 10
Females „ - - -	26 1 8	32 5 5
Station labourers, per week - -	0 15 10	0 16 7
Sheepwashers „ - -	0 19 2	1 0 6
Shearers „ - -	0 13 2	0 14 1

Live stock.

218. The following are the numbers of live stock returned in the year under review. These are believed to be under the mark, especially those of horses, cattle, and pigs. Of the cattle 222,414, or more than a fourth, were stated to be milch cows:—

Horses - - - -	180,342
Cattle - - - -	883,763
Sheep - - - -	11,323,080
Pigs - - - - -	160,336

Live stock 1872–3 and 1873–4 compared.

219. According to the returns, cattle increased during the year by 71,474, and sheep by 747,861; but horses fell off by 5,454, and pigs by 33,386.

Steam engines on farms and stations.

220. The following steam engines were employed on farms and squatting stations in the year under review and the previous one:—

Steam Engines on Farms and Stations, 1872–3 *and* 1873–4.

Year ended 31st March.	Steam Engines.					
	On Farms.		On Stations.		Total.	
	Number.	Horse-power.	Number.	Horse-power.	Number.	Horse-power.
1873	319	2,297	39	392	358	2,689
1874	298	2,367	32	314	330	2,681

Steam engines 1872-3 and 1873–4 compared.

221. It will be observed that the steam engines used in connexion with agriculture were less numerous, but showed a larger aggregate horse-power, in 1873–4 than in the former year, and that those used in connexion with pastoral pursuits fell off both in number and horse-power.

* See also table following paragraph 97, *ante*.

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Agricultural machinery and improvements.

222. The approximate value of agricultural machinery and improvements on farms and on squatting stations was returned as follows in the same two years:—

Value of Agricultural Machinery and Improvements, 1872–3 *and* 1873–4.

Year ended 31st March.	Value of Agricultural Machinery and Improvements.								
	On Farms.			On Stations.			Total.		
	Machinery.	Improvements.	Total.	Machinery.	Improvements.	Total.	Machinery.	Improvements.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1873	1,440,226	9,620,139	11,060,365	96,656	1,831,424	1,928,080	1,536,882	11,451,563	12,988,445
1874	1,462,460	9,625,907	11,088,367	98,001	2,134,228	2,232,229	1,560,461	11,760,135	13,320,596

Increased value of improvements.

223. Under the head of improvements is included the value of buildings of all descriptions, but not the cost of clearing or cropping land. It will be noticed that a large increase occurs in this column under the head of stations, and that a slight increase occurs in all the other columns both in regard to stations and farms.

Machine labour.

224. A slight rise is observable in the prices paid by farmers for the use of machinery. The following are the average rates in 1872–3 and 1873–4:—

	1872.	1873.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Machine reaping, per acre - -	0 5 1	0 5 9
„ mowing „ - -	0 4 8	0 4 9
„ threshing, per 100 bushels -	1 3 5	1 3 7

Flour mills.

225. The number of flour mills in operation in the year under review and in the preceding one, together with particulars respecting the power employed, the grain operated upon, the flour and meal produced, and the value of machinery, lands, and buildings, were given as follow:—

Flour Mills, 1872–3 *and* 1873–4.

Year ended 31st March.	Number of Mills.	Power employed.			Amount of Horse-Power.	Number of Pairs of Stones.	Number of Hands employed.	Quantity of Grain operated upon.		Flour made.	Meal made.	Approximate Total Value of		
		Steam.	Water.	Wind.				Wheat.	Other.			Machinery and Plant.	Lands.	Buildings.
								bushels.	bushels.	tons.	tons.	£	£	£
1873	163	151	11	1	3,012	486	755	5,334,357	125,877	114,962	844	220,170	57,144	229,381
1874	157	146	11	--	2,940	470	725	5,078,368	76,099	108,477	4,238	231,983	52,162	190,030

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226. It will be observed that a falling off has taken place in the number of mills to the extent of six, and that a falling off has also taken place under nearly all the headings, the exceptions being the quantity of meal made, which increased by about 3,400 tons, and the value of machinery and plant, which increased by nearly 12,000*l.*

Flour mills 1872-3 and 1873-4 compared.

227. The following particulars were obtained respecting breweries in the same two years:—

Breweries.

Breweries, 1872–3 *and* 1873–4.

Year ended 31st March.	Number of Breweries.	Number of Hands employed.	Number of Horses employed.	Number of Drays and Waggons employed.	Materials used.			Beer made.	Approximate Total Value of—		
					Sugar.	Malt.	Hops.		Machinery and Plant.	Lands.	Buildings.
					lbs.	bushels.	lbs.	gallons.	£	£	£
1873	117	912	674	369	9,149,389	677,824	1,082,063	12,587,321	153,405	68,022	190,014
1874	106	988	687	364	9,656,379	931,051	985,521	13,539,680	167,827	82,919	209,982

228. Breweries it will be observed fell off by 11 during the year, and the amount of hops used decreased by nearly 100,000 lbs; but the quantity of beer made increased by 952,369 gallons, or about 19,000 hhds., and most of the other items also show increase.

Breweries 1872–3 and 1873–4 compared.

229. Stone quarries were returned as follow in the two years named:—

Stone quarries.

Stone Quarries, 1872–3 *and* 1873–4.

Year ended 31st March.	Number of Stone Quarries.	Steam Engines used.		Number of Hands employed.	Quantity of Stone raised.				Approximate Total Value of—			
		Number.	Horse Power.		Bluestone.	Slate.	Sandstone.	Granite.	Stone raised.	Machinery and Plant.	Lands.	Buildings.
					tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	£	£	£	£
1873	152	5	110	893	407,510	4,200	6,900	13,425	75,766	16,379	18,573	2,858
1874	170	3	44	697	399,253	1,124	22,250	6,900	79,822	21,896	17,699	2,580

230. The number of stone quarries increased by 18, the value of stone raised by about 4,000*l.*, and the value of machinery and plant by about 5,500*l.*; but a slight decrease is observed in the value of lands and buildings; also a decrease of 200 in the number of hands employed, and the number of steam engines fell off from 5 to 3.

Stone quarries, 1872–3 and 1873–4 compared.

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Brickyards and potteries.

231. Brickyards and potteries were returned as follow:—

Brickyards and Potteries, 1872–3 *and* 1873–4.

Year ended 31st March.	Number of Brickyards and Potteries.	Number of Machines in use.		Power employed.			Amount of Horse-power employed.	Number of Hands employed.	Number of Bricks made.	Approximate Total Value of—				
		For Tempering or Crushing Clay.	For making Bricks or Pottery.	Steam.	Horse.	Manual Labour.				Bricks.	Pottery.	Machinery and Plant.	Lands.	Buildings.
										£	£	£	£	£
1873	304	174	59	8	121	175	284	1,210	80,492,050	146,701	23,410	29,006	43,259	35,004
1874	290	175	47	9	121	160	311	1,325	79,761,000	153,051	19,526	36,873	49,645	48,356

Brickyards, &c., 1872–3 and 1873–4 compared.

232. The number of brickyards and potteries, it will be observed, fell off by 14, but this led to a falling off of only about three-quarters of a million in the number of bricks made; at the same time the value of bricks and pottery made increased by about 2,500*l.*, the number of hands employed increased by 115, and the value of machinery, plant, lands, and buildings increased by nearly 28,000*l.*

Manufactories, works, &c.

233. Particulars respecting manufactories and works other than those already named were given as follow:—

Manufactories, Works, &c., 1872–3 *and* 1873–4.

Year ended 31st March,	Number of Manufactories, Works, &c.	Power employed.					Amount of Horse-Power.	Number of Hands employed.		Approximate Total Value of—		
		Steam.	Water.	Wind.	Horse.	Manual Labour.		Males.	Females.	Machinery and Plant.	Lands.	Buildings.
										£	£	£
1873	1,191	593	7	2	145	444	7,058	15,356	3,358	2,652,068	502,405	819,512
1874	1,255	618	10	1	146	480	8,082	17,596	3,861	3,217,124	587,545	1,028,483

Manufactories, works, &c., 1872–3 and 1873–4, compared.

234. It is thus seen that the number of manufacturing establishments increased by 64 during the year, and that the number of hands employed increased by 2,743; also that the total value of lands, buildings, and plant was 3,973,985*l.* in 1872–3, and 4,833,152*l.* in 1873–4, thereby showing an increase of 859,167*l.* in favour of the latter year.

List of manufactories, 1872–3 and 1873–4.

235. The manufact ries above referred to are thus classified in the two years:—

Manufactories, Works, &c.

Description of Manufactory.	Number of Establishments.		Description of Manufactory.	Number of Establishments.	
	1872–3	1873–4		1872–3	1873–4
BOOKS AND STATIONERY.			TEXTILE FABRICS.		
Account-book manufactories, manufacturing stationers - -	8	12	Woollen materials, cloth manufactories -	3	4
Printing establishments (steam) - -	26	28	DRESS.		
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.			Boot manufactories -	24	21
			Clothing factories -	33	34
Organ-building establishments - -	2	2	Fur manufactories -	1	1
Pianoforte manufactories	9	8	Hat, cap manufactories	8	10
			Oilskin clothing manufactories - -	1	1
MACHINES AND TOOLS.					
Engine, machine manufactories - -	26	24	FIBROUS MATERIALS.		
Cutlery works - -	2	3	Oilcloth manufactories -	1	2
Bellows manufactories -	1	2	Rope, twine works -	12	12
CARRIAGES, &c.			ANIMAL FOOD.		
Coach, waggon, &c., manufactories (steam)	6	5	Meat-curing establishments - -	22	25
Agricultural implement manufactories -	42	40			
			VEGETABLE FOOD.		
SHIPS AND BOATS.					
			Biscuit manufactories -	7	8
Ship, boat builders -	12	11	Confectionery works -	5	6
Floating docks - -	2	2	Flour mills. (See *ante*.)		
Graving docks - -	1	1	Jam manufactories -	4	5
Patent slips - -	5	5	Macaroni works -	1	1
			Maizena, oatmeal, starch manufactories -	2	3
FURNITURE.			Rice mills - -	1	1
Cabinet works (steam)	5	6			
Looking-glass manufactories - - -	2	3	DRINKS AND STIMULANTS.		
CHEMICALS.					
			Aërated waters, ginger-beer, liqueur, &c., works - -	113	119
Chemical works -	9	8	Breweries. (See *ante*.)		
Dye works - -	13	14	Coffee, chocolate, spice works - -	10	11
Essential oil manufactories - -	3	2	Chicory mills - -	2	2
Fuse manufactories -	—	1	Distilleries - -	6	4
Gun-cotton manufactories - - -	—	1	Malt-houses - -	14	17
Ink, blacking manufactories - -	4	8	Sauce, pickle manufactories - -	4	4
Match (vesta) manufactories - -	—	1	Sugar (beetroot) manufactories - -	1	1
Powder (blasting) manutories - - -	1	1	Sugar refineries -	1	2
Salt works - -	4	5	Tobacco, cigar, snuff manufactories -	12	13
Tar distilling, asphalte works - -	1	1	Vinegar works - -	1	1

Description of Manufactory.	Number of Establishments. 1872–3	1873–4	Description of Manufactory.	Number of Establishments. 1872–3	1873–4
ANIMAL MATTERS.			COAL.		
Boiling-down establishments	13	19	Fuel (patent) manufactories	1	—
Bone manure manufactories	19	14	Gas works	12	13
Brush manufactories	2	3	STONE, CLAY, EARTHENWARE, AND GLASS.		
Curled hair manufactories	4	9			
Catgut manufactories	2	2	Brickyards. (See *ante*.)		
Fellmongeries, woolwashing establishments	43	44	Cement (patent) manufactories	—	1
Flock manufactories	5	2	Glass manufactories	1	2
Glue, oil manufactories	6	8	Glass works	2	2
Morocco, fancy leather manufactories	3	3	Limekilns	31	27
Parchment, skin manufactories	1	—	Marble works	3	12
Soap, candle, tallow works	41	39	Potteries. (See *ante*.)		
Tanneries	73	78	Stone sawing, breaking, polishing works	2	5
Whip manufactories	2	3	Stone quarries. (See *ante*.)		
VEGETABLE MATTERS.			WATER.		
			Ice manufactories	2	1
Chaff-cutting, corn-crushing works	187	186	Water works	5	5
Broom manufactories	3	3			
Cooperage works	8	10	METALS.		
Earth-closet manufactories	2	2	Antimony smelting works	3	3
Fancy box manufactories	2	4	Electro-plate works	2	2
Last manufactories	1	—	Fireproof safe manufactories	1	—
Moulding, framing, turning, and saw mills	152	161	Iron and tin works	11	16
Myall pipe manufactories	2	2	Iron, brass, and copper foundries	62	62
Paint, varnish manufactories	1	2	Lead works	2	1
Paper manufactories	2	1	Tin smelting works	—	2
Paper bag manufactories	4	4	Total	1,191	1,255

Summary of manufactories, works, &c.

236. By summarising the statements received respecting the whole of the manufactories and works, including not only those returned as such, but flour mills, breweries, stone quarries, brickyards, and potteries, the following particulars are elicited :—

Manufactories and Works of all Descriptions.— General Summary, 1872–3 *and* 1873–4.

Year ended 31st March.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Hands employed.	Approximate Total Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant.
			£
1872–3	1,927	22,484	5,037,200
1873–4	1,978	25,192	5,945,104

Manufactories, works, &c., 1872–3 and 1873–4 compared.

237. By the above figures the following results are ascertained:—1. The number of manufacturing establishments increased by 51 during the year. 2. The establishments afforded employment to 2,708 more hands in the latter year than in the former. 3. The capital invested, represented by the total value of premises and plant, amounted to 5,037,200*l.* in 1872–3 and to 5,945,104*l.* in 1873–4, showing an increase of little short of a million sterling (907,904*l.*) in favour of the latter year.

Manufactories, &c., on Crown lands.

238. It may be remarked that in 1873–4, 3 of the mills, 2 of the breweries, 52 of the quarries, 64 of the brickyards, and 184 of the other works, were upon Crown lands, and in these cases no estimate has been given of the value of the land. In the returns of the former year also no valuation has been given in the case of manufactories or works carried on upon Crown lands.

Yield of gold, 1872 and 1873.

239. The total yield of gold in 1872, assuming it to be equal to the amount received at the Mint added to the Customs returns of Victorian gold exported, was 1,282,520 ozs. 16 dwts., and in 1873 it was 1,220,879 ozs.

Gold raised from first discovery to 1873.

240. Calculating upon the same principle from the first discovery of gold in 1851 to the end of 1873, and including also 1,267,241 ozs. taken away overland in the four years 1852–1855, and passed through the Customs of the adjacent colonies without being recorded in Victoria, the whole quantity raised in this Colony has amounted first and last to no less than 43,258,205¼ ozs., representing, at 4*l.* per oz., a total value of 173,032,821*l.*

Gold from alluvial and from quartz workings.

241. According to information supplied to the mining surveyors and registrars by the banks and gold mining companies, and judging also by their own knowledge of the workings in their districts, these officers estimated that in 1872 52 per cent. of the gold was obtained from quartz and 48 per cent. from alluvial workings, and that in 1873, 57 per cent. of the gold was obtained from quartz, and 43 per cent. from alluvial workings.

Average of gold to each miner.

242. According to estimates made by the secretary for mines, the quantity of gold minted and exported would, if divided amongst the mean number of miners employed in 1872 and 1873, represent an average of 93*l.* 17*s.* 1·47*d.* per man in the former and of 93*l.* 16*s.* 2·62*d.* per man in the latter year.

Mining engines.

243. The number of steam engines used in gold mining had fallen off from 1,161 in 1872 to 1,151 in 1873, but in the same period the aggregate horse-power had increased from 25,014 to 25,100.

Engines used in alluvial and quartz mining.

244. In 1872, 379 of the steam engines were employed in alluvial mining and 782 in quartz mining. In 1873, 362 of the steam engines were employed in alluvial and 789 in quartz mining.

Machinery on goldfields.

245. In 1872 the total number of machines of all descriptions in operation on the goldfields was 5,779, the aggregate value of which was estimated to be 2,098,574*l.* In 1873 the machines numbered 5,699, and the estimated value was 2,131,188*l.*

Auriferous reefs.

246. The number of quartz reefs proved to be auriferous was returned by the mining surveyors and registrars as 3,224 in 1872.

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and 3,324 in 1873. The secretary for mines points out that these are not in every case distinct quartz reefs, although held to be so in the localities in which they exist, but many of them are separate parts of the same reef.

Area of auriferous ground.

247. The auriferous ground worked upon was estimated to amount to 1,026 square miles in 1872, and to 1,050½ square miles in 1873.

Value of mining claims.

248. The aggregate value of all the gold mining claims in Victoria was estimated to be 11,820,139*l.* in 1872, and 12,431,241*l.* in 1873.

Average yield of quartz.

249. With reference to the average yield of auriferous quartz, the secretary for mines points out that, owing to the machine owners being unable to give, or being precluded from giving, information, it is impossible to get complete returns from any district. The officers of the department, however, succeeded in obtaining information respecting the crushing of 954,571 tons in 1872, and 991,674 tons in 1873. The total produce of these crushings was 568,382 ozs. in 1872, and 567,214 ozs. in 1873. The average yield per ton was thus 11 dwts. 21·81 grs. in 1872, and 11 dwts. 10·55 grs. per ton in 1873.

Mineral leases.

250. The following leases for the purpose of mining for metals and minerals other than gold were in force at the end of the two years, 1872 and 1873. It will be observed that the number in the latter year was more than twice as great and the area was nearly twice as large as in the former :—

Mineral Leases in Force, 1872 *and* 1873.

Metals and Minerals.	1872.		1873.	
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.
Antimony	12	244 3 10	23	579 0 20
Coal	8	5,030 3 38	19	9,506 2 15
Copper and ores of copper	2	964 0 12	1	625 0 12
Flagging	1	5 0 0	1	9 2 30
Galena and copper	—	—	1	17 0 25
Kaolin	1	5 2 28	1	5 2 28
Lignite	1	475 2 10	1	475 2 10
Silver	3	424 1 36	3	424 1 36
Silver and lead	2	605 0 32	2	605 0 32
Silver, lead, and copper	—	—	1	443 3 34
Slate	4	409 1 11	3	362 0 13
Slate and flagging	1	13 2 25	4	68 2 21
Slate and freestone	3	333 0 37	3	333 0 37
Iron	—	—	1	42 2 22
Red ochre clay	—	—	1	2 0 14
Tin and ores of tin	2	276 2 21	30	2,017 0 25
Total	40	8,788 2 20	95	15,518 1 14

Minerals, &c., other than gold raised in Victoria.

251. According to estimates made in the Mining Department, the following are the values of metals and minerals other than

gold raised in Victoria from the period of the first discovery of gold in 1851 to the end of 1873 :— VICTORIA.

	£
Silver - - - -	6,798
Tin - - - -	305,886
Copper - - - -	5,840
Antimony - - - -	86,163
Lead - - - -	3,090
Iron - - - -	288
Coal - - - -	3,870
Lignite - - - -	1,933
Kaolin - - - -	7,444
Flagging - - - -	32,688
Slates - - - -	728
Magnesite - - - -	12
Diamonds - - - -	103
Sapphires - - - -	180
Total - - -	455,023

252. The number of patents for inventions applied for since the year 1854 has been 1,880. Of these 146 were applied for in the year under review, and 122 in the preceding year. **Patents.**

253. The copyrights registered amounted to 225 in 1873, and 308 in 1872. The total number registered since the Copyright Act first came into operation in 1870 has been 1,181. Copyrights.

PART IX.—VITAL STATISTICS.

254. By the eleventh section of the registration of births, deaths, and marriages statute 1865 (28 Vict. No. 246) it is enacted that the Registrar-General shall send in annually to the chief secretary a report and general abstract of the number of births, deaths, and marriages registered in the preceding year, and that such report and abstract shall be laid before Parliament. Registrar-General's Report.

255. Although the general charge of the registrations is, as I mentioned in the second paragraph to this report, still vested in the registrar-general, the preparation of the report and abstract under the registration statute, being matters of a purely statistical character, have, on the division of the department, naturally passed to the Government statist. As the holder of that office, I propose to fulfil the obligation thus imposed upon me in the present portion of my report and in the part of the statistics to which it relates. The latter, as I have already explained, has been detained by circumstances beyond my control, but will be printed and laid before Parliament as soon as possible. In addition to the returns of births, deaths, and marriages, statements relating to the statistics of charitable institutions, gaols, &c., throughout the Colony are included in the report and tables, as likewise are meteorological abstracts furnished by the government astronomer Contents of Part Vital Statistics.

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Friendly Societies.

256. The statistics of friendly societies have usually been published in this part; but, in the absence of power under the Statute to compel the societies to furnish returns at the appointed time, or even at any time, joined to the fact that this year the general statistics are published at a much earlier date than they have been on any former occasion, I have found it impossible to get the friendly societies' statistics prepared in time for embodiment in the work. I propose therefore to publish them in a separate form at as early a date as possible.

Metropolitan, urban and extra-urban districts.

257. In the tables of births, deaths, and marriages the urban districts have been separated from the extra-urban, and the former have been further subdivided into the metropolitan, embracing the city of Melbourne and the surrounding towns, boroughs, and villages, together with their intermediate spaces, extending for a distance of 10 miles in each direction ; and the extra-metropolitan, embracing all cities, towns, and boroughs throughout the colony except those within 10 miles of Melbourne. The extra-urban districts embrace all parts of the Colony not included in the limits of cities, towns, and boroughs.

Marriages, 1873.

258. The number of marriages celebrated in 1873 was 4,974, as against 4,791 in the previous year. The excess in favour of the year under review was thus 183.

Marriages and population.

259. More marriages took place in 1873 than in any year since the first settlement of the colony. As compared with the population, however, the number was exceeded in all the years of the last decennaid, except 1871 and 1872. This will be seen by the following figures :—

Marriages and Population, 1864–1873.

Year.	Estimated Average Population.	Total Number of Marriages.	Per 1,000 of the Population.	
			Number of Marriages.	Number of Persons Married.
1864 - -	589,160	4,554	7·73	15·46
1865 - -	616,375	4,497	7·29	14·58
1866 - -	634,077	4,253	6·71	13·42
1867 - -	649,826	4,490	6·91	13·82
1868 - -	671,222	4,692	6·99	13·98
1869 - -	696,942	4,735	6·79	13·58
1870 - -	709,839	4,732	6·67	13·34
1871 - -	738,725	4,693	6·35	12·70
1872 - -	760,991	4,791	6·30	12·60
1873 - -	780,362	4,974	6·37	12·74

Marriage rate in Victoria and England.

260. During the whole period of 10 years the marriages averaged annually 6·78, and the persons married 13·56, per 1,000 of the population. The rate in Victoria is not nearly so high as that prevailing in England and Wales, where, in the thirty-three years ended 1870, the marriages averaged 8·24, and the persons married 16 · 48, to every 1,000 persons living.

261. In the metropolitan districts the marriages in 1873 were in the proportion of 9·55 to every 1,000 of the inhabitants; in the towns outside Melbourne and suburbs they were in that of 9·4 per 1,000 living; and in the country districts in that of 2·65 per 1,000 living. To account for the low marriage rate in country districts it will at once be remembered that marriages, even of persons whose ordinary abode is the country, generally take place in the towns. Marriages in town and country districts.

262. Marriages in Victoria are almost invariably most numerous in the autumn, rather less so in the spring, still less so in the summer, and least of all in the winter. The following are the per-centages in each quarter calculated over a period of 10 years:— Marriages at different seasons.

Average Proportion of Marriages in each Quarter.

	Per cent.
Quarter ended 31st March - -	24·88
„ 30th June - -	25·91
„ 30th September - -	23·98
„ 31st December - -	25·23
	100·00

263. In the year under review the order differed slightly from the above, the marriages being more numerous in the winter quarter than in the summer. The following are the numbers in the four quarters:—March quarter, 1,079; June quarter, 1,382; September quarter 1,168; December quarter, 1,345. Marriages in four quarters of 1873.

264. By far the largest number of marriages are, as may be supposed, contracted between bachelors and spinsters; the next largest are those between bachelors and widows; somewhat, although not very much, less are those between widowers and spinsters; and least of all are those between widowers and widows. The following are the proportions of each condition during 10 years:— Former condition of persons married.

Former Condition of Persons Married.

	Per cent.
Bachelors and spinsters - - -	80·60
Bachelors and widows - - -	8·08
Widowers and spinsters - - -	7·27
Widowers and widows - - -	4·05
	100·00

265. In 1873, 4,013, or 80·68 per cent., of the marriages were between bachelors and spinsters; 377, or 7·58 per cent., were between bachelors and widows; 370, or 7·44 per cent., were between widowers and spinsters; and 214, or 4·30 per cent., were between widowers and widows. Former conditions of persons married, 1873.

266. One of the results of the preponderance, in point of numbers of the male sex over the female is that in this country more Re-marriages.

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widows remarry than widowers, the proportion in 10 years being 12·13 of the former and 11·32 of the latter to every 100 marriages. In England and Wales, on the contrary, more widowers re-marry than widows. the respective proportions to every 100 marriages being 13·93 and 9·18.

Marriages of persons under age.

267. Another result, probably also due in part to the inequality of the sexes in Victoria, is that, in proportion to the total numbers married, fewer males and more females marry as minors in the colony than in England and Wales. The returns show that, in Victoria, during 10 years, 1·50 per cent. of the bridegrooms, and 26·57 per cent. of the brides, had not attained their twenty-first year, whilst in England and Wales, during 10 years, as many as 6·60 per cent. of the bridegrooms, and only 19·91 per cent. of the brides were under age. The mean of the two sexes marrying under age gives a higher proportion for Victoria (14·032 per cent.) than for England and Wales (13·255 per cent.).

Marriages of minors, 1873.

268. In the year under notice, 103, or 2·07 per cent., of the men, and 1,434, or 28·83 per cent., of the women, married in Victoria were under age. These numbers result in a mean of 15·45 per cent.

Ages of husbands and wives.

269. The following table shows, in combination, the ages of males and females who married during the year:—

Ages of Husbands and Wives in Combination, 1873.

Ages of Husbands.	Ages of Wives.																		Total Husbands.
	Under 15.	15 to 16.	16 to 17.	17 to 18.	18 to 19.	19 to 20.	20 to 21.	21 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 45.	45 to 50.	50 to 55.	55 to 60.	60 to 65.	65 to 70.	70 to 75.	Unspecified.	
17 to 18 -	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
18 to 19 -	—	—	—	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
19 to 20 -	—	1	3	3	7	7	—	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29
20 to 21 -	—	—	4	8	16	9	10	15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	63
21 to 25 -	—	8	40	89	123	148	148	566	94	19	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,241
25 to 30 -	1	7	22	75	113	131	147	650	298	40	7	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,494
30 to 35 -	—	4	6	22	49	59	44	293	267	114	37	6	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	907
35 to 40 -	1	1	5	15	17	20	20	136	135	96	64	20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	531
40 to 45 -	—	—	2	2	3	10	5	52	73	62	62	49	12	1	2	—	—	—	—	335
45 to 50 -	—	—	—	1	1	4	2	10	17	28	30	35	17	5	—	—	—	—	—	150
59 to 55 -	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	11	15	19	20	11	8	3	2	—	—	—	96
55 to 60 -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	5	8	4	5	—	—	—	—	28
60 to 65 -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	2	4	1	—	1	—	13
65 to 70 -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	9
70 to 75 -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	5
Unspecified	—	—	1	1	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	53	62
Total wives	2	23	84	221	335	392	377	1,735	900	377	228	141	59	23	16	3	2	2	54	4,974

Relative ages of husbands and wives.

270. In 4,911 instances out of the 4,974 marriages which took place the age of both husband and wife was specified. In 1,143 of these cases the husband and wife were of the same age, in 3,480 cases the husband was older than the wife, and in 288 cases the wife was older than the husband.

Inequalities of age.

271. A few rather curious inequalities of age appear in several of the columns, although these instances are not so striking as some which have occurred in other years: as, for instance, two

youths between 19 and 20 years of age marry women between 25 and 30; a man between 30 and 35 chooses a partner between 65 and 70; a man between 25 and 30 selects one between 45 and 50; and, on the other hand, a man between 35 and 40 marries a girl under 15, and a man between 65 and 70 marries a woman between 25 and 30.

Signing with marks.

272. There are several ways of arriving at an estimate of the proportion of the adult population able to read and write. One method is by the census, when a return of this nature is made respecting every person in the community. This return is, however, it may be presumed, not always reliable, as a very small amount of education, quite insufficient to enable its possessor to make use of it in even the smallest business relations of life, may cause him to feel justified in stating, or may feel others justified in stating for him, that he is able to read and write. A severer test is that of the marriage register, on which all males and all females entering the married state are required to affix their signatures.

Signing with marks in Victoria and England.

273. In England and Wales, taking the experience of 10 years, 23·29 per cent. of all the males, and 32·5 per cent. of all the females, who married signed the register with marks, and therefore, it may be assumed, were unable to write. In Victoria, during 10 years, 7·74 per cent. of the bridegrooms, and 15·78 per cent. of the brides, signed with marks, and therefore were doubtless in like manner defective in point of education.

Signing with marks by persons of different sects.

274. The number of persons in Victoria signing with marks differs according to the religious denomination. The following table shows the proportion of those so signing to the total numbers married according to the forms of each sect, also the proportions so signing to the total married by lay registrars:—

Signing Marriage Register with Marks; Experience of 10 *Years.*

Marriages performed according to the Usages of the—	Number of Marriages.	Signing with Marks.				
		Total Number.		Number in every 100 married.		
		Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Mean.
Church of England -	11,619	711	1,432	6·12	12·32	9·22
Presbyterian Church -	9,707	505	1,114	5·20	11·48	8·34
Wesleyan Church -	6,666	407	729	6·11	10·94	8·52
Independent Church -	2,247	101	252	4·50	11·21	7·85
Baptist Church -	1,418	68	108	4·80	7·62	6·21
Lutheran Church -	560	8	30	1·43	5·36	3·39
Unitarian Church -	32	—	2	—	6·25	3·12
Calvinistic Methodists	87	—	9	—	10·34	5·17
Other Protestants -	337	33	33	9·79	9·79	9·79
Roman Catholics -	10,073	1,515	3,033	15.04	30·11	22·57
Jews - - -	194	3	8	1·55	4·12	2·83
Lay registrars -	2,724	183	458	6·72	16·81	11·76
Total - -	45,664	3,534	7,208	7·74	15·78	11·76

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Different sects compared.

275. If the figures in the first nine lines be combined so as to give the total of the Protestant sects, the proportions signing with marks in every 100 marriages solemnized by Protestant clergymen will be found to be 5·61 of the men, and 11·35 of the women, or a mean of 8·48. This is about the average which prevails in the marriages performed by Presbyterians and Wesleyans; but in marriages according to the rites of the Church of England and of "Other Protestants" the proportion signing with marks is greater; and in marriages according to the rites of the Independents, Baptists, Lutherans, Unitarians, and Calvinistic Methodists the proportion is less than the average of Protestant marriages. Fewer persons, on the average, married according to the rites of the Jews signed with marks than those of any other religious sect. More persons, on the average, married by lay registrars signed with marks than those married according to the usages of any religious denomination except the Roman Catholics. A much larger number of persons, on the average, married according to the rites of the Roman Catholics signed with marks than of those married in any other manner.

Proportions signing with marks, 1873.

276. Three hundred and twenty-six of the men, and 496 of the women, out of a total of 4,974 of either sex married, signed with marks in the year under review. The proportions of those unable to sign in writing were therefore 6·55 per cent. of the men, and 9·97 per cent. of the women, resulting in a mean of 8·26 per cent. All the numbers show considerable improvement upon the results of the 10 years as given in the table.

Cases in which one or both signed with marks.

277. In 612 instances, during the year under notice, one out of the two parties to a marriage signed with a mark and the other in writing, and in 105 instances both signed with marks; thus in all the marriages except about 2 per cent. either the husband or the wife was able to write.

Births, 1873.

278. The births registered in 1873 numbered 28,100. This was the largest number of births ever registered in the colony in one year, and exceeded by 739 the number registered in 1872.

Birth rate, 1864–1873.

279. The estimated average population, the number of births, and the proportion of the latter to the former, during each of the last 10 years, were as follow. It will be observed that the birth rate has been declining pretty steadily for years past, and was lower in the last two years than in any others of the decenniad.

Births and Population, 1864–1873.

Year.	Estimated Average Population.	Births.	
		Total Number.	Number per 1,000 of Population.
1864	589,160	25,680	43·59
1865	616,375	25,915	42·04
1866	634,077	25,010	39·44
1867	649,826	25,608	39·41
1868	671,222	27,243	40·59
1869	696,942	26,040	37·36
1870	709,839	27,151	38·25
1871	738,725	27,382	37·07
1872	760,991	27,361	35·95
1873	780,362	28,100	36·01

280. The birth rate for the whole period of 10 years was 38·77 per 1,000, or, in other words, 1 child was born alive to every 26 persons living. In England and Wales the average birth rate extending over a series of years was 33·64 per 1,000, or 1 child was born alive to every 30 persons living. Birth rate in Victoria and England.

281. The births in Melbourne and suburbs, in the year under review, were in the proportion of 34·36 to every 1,000 of the population. In the town districts outside Melbourne and suburbs they were in the proportion of 40·98 to every 1,000 of the population, and in the country districts they were in the proportion of 34·40 to every 1,000 of the population. The fact that the birth rate of the metropolis is no higher than that of the country districts is a remarkable one, and merits investigation. Birth rate in towns and country.

282. The number of males and females born, and the proportion of the former to the latter, in each of the last 10 years, were as follow:— Proportion of males and females born.

Births of Males and Females, 1864–1873.

Year.	Males Born.	Females Born.	Males Born to every 100 Females.
1864 - -	13,241	12,439	106·45
1865 - -	13,265	12,650	104·86
1866 - -	12,670	12,340	102·67
1867 - -	13,093	12,515	104·62
1868 - -	13,841	13,402	103·28
1869 - -	13,225	12,815	103·20
1870 - -	13,997	13,154	106·41
1871 - -	14,000	13,382	104·62
1872 - -	13,831	13,530	102·22
1873 - -	14,234	13,866	102·65

283. In the whole period of 10 years the proportion was 104·07 males to 100 females. The relative proportion of males and females born does not differ much from that of England and Wales, where the ratio in the 10 years ended 1867 was 104·4 males to 100 females. Males and females born in Victoria and England.

284. In 263 instances twins were born during the year under notice, and in three instances triplets. In the last 10 years 2,729 cases of twins, and 25 cases of triplets, have been recorded out of 265,490 births. Thus one mother in every 96 gave birth to twins, and one mother in every 10,508 brought forth three children at a birth. Twins and triplets.

285. The number of children recorded as being born out of wedlock in the year under review was 893, or 1 in every 31 born. In the past 10 years the number was 7,477, or 1 in every 35 born. In England and Wales the proportion of illegitimate children during a series of years was 1 in every 16 born. It is possible, however, that the fact of a child being born out of wedlock is more often concealed here than there. Illegitimate births.

286. By the number of legitimate births the number of married women at childbearing ages can be ascertained approximately, as Married women and women living irregular lives.

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also by the number of illegitimate births can the number of unmarried women living irregularly. An estimate based upon the returns of the census of 1871 shows that the legitimate births in Victoria are in the proportion of 301 to every 1,000 married women living between the ages of 15 and 45, and this proportion applied to the returns of the year under review gives the number of married women living at those ages as 90,389. If children are born to women living in concubinage in the same proportion as they are to women living in wedlock, the number of illegitimate children born would show that 2,967 women were living in the former state during the year. The average number of unmarried women in the colony between the ages of 15 and 45 I estimate to have been 65,405 in 1873. It would therefore follow that 1 out of every 22 of this number was leading an irregular life.

Illegitimate births in town and country.

287. As may be supposed, the proportion of illegitimate births is greater in town than in country districts. In the metropolis and suburbs it is especially great, the ratio in the year under review being 1 illegitimate child to every 19 children born. In the other urban districts the ratio was 1 illegitimate child to every 41 children born, or, in all the town districts taken together, 1 illegitimate child to every 26 children born. The proportion in the extra-urban districts was 1 illegitimate child to every 45 children born.

Births at different seasons 1864–1873.

288. Births are most frequent in the winter season, both in this colony and in England and Wales. This, as regards Victoria, has been proved by the experience of the last 10 years, in every one of which the births have been greatest in the quarter ended 30th September. The following are the figures for each quarter of the whole decenniad and the per-centage:—

Births in each Quarter, 1864–1873.

Quarter ended—	Number of Births.	Proportions per cent.
31st March - - -	62,195	23·43
30th June - - - -	66,110	24·90
30th September - - -	72,405	27·27
31st December - - -	64,780	24·40
Total - - -	265,490	100·00

Births in each quarter, 1873.

289. During the year under review the births numbered 6,815 in the quarter ended 31st March, 6,932 in the quarter ended 30th June, 7,558 in the quarter ended 30th September, and 6,795 in the quarter ended 31st December.

Deaths, 1873.

290. The deaths registered in the year numbered 11,501. The births, as already stated, having been 28,100, the excess of births over deaths was 16,599, or 144 per cent.

Excess of births over deaths.

291. In all years the births in Victoria have been largely in excess of the deaths. During the 10 years ended in 1873 the former numbered 265,490, and the latter 106,734. The total

excess of births was therefore 158,756, or 149 per cent. In England and Wales, during a series of years, the average excess of births over deaths was 55 per cent., or not nearly half so high as the average excess prevaliing in Victoria. VICTORIA.

292. Males contributed 6,565, and females 4,936, to the mortality of the year. These figures furnish proportions relatively to that mortality of 57 and 43 per cent. respectively. The proportions of males and females in the total population during the year were respectively 54 per cent. and 46 per cent., so that more males and fewer females died than might have been expected from the relative numbers living. Deaths of males and females.

293. The following table shows the average population of each year, distinguishing males and females, the number of deaths of males and females in each year, and the proportion that the numbers of either sex who died bore to the total number of the same sex living in each year :— Population and deaths.

Deaths and Population, 1864–1873.

Year.	Estimated Mean Population.			Deaths.					
				Total Number.			Number per 1,000 of Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1864	336,627	252,533	589,160	5,202	3,685	8,887	15·45	14·59	15·08
1865	349,662	266,713	616,375	6,158	4,303	10,461	17·61	16·13	16·97
1866	356,460	277,617	634,077	7,016	5,270	12,286	19·68	18·98	19·37
1867	362,417	287,409	649,826	6,613	5,120	11,733	18·25	17·81	18·06
1868	371,817	299,405	671,222	5,865	4,202	10,067	15·77	14·03	15·00
1869	384,267	312,675	696,942	6,221	4,409	10,630	16·19	14·10	15·25
1870	390,480	319,359	709,839	6,114	4,306	10,420	15·66	13·48	14·68
1871	404,983	333,742	738,725	5,845	4,073	9,918	14·43	12·20	13·43
1872	415,605	345,386	760,991	6,308	4,523	10,831	15·18	13·10	14·23
1873	424,729	355,633	780,362	6,565	4,936	11,501	15·45	13·88	14·74

294. It will be observed that in the first six years of the 10 the death rate was higher than in the year under review, that it was exceptionally high in 1866 and 1867, and exceptionally low in 1871; also that in each of the years the mortality bore more heavily upon males than upon females. Death rate in various years.

295. The average annual death rate extending over the whole 10 years was 16·29 per 1,000 as regards males, 14 68 per 1,000 as regards females, and 15·58 per 1,000 as regards both sexes. In England and Wales, in 31 years, the average annual death rate was 23·34 per 1,000, and 21·49 per 1,000 as regards males and females respectively, and 22·4 per 1,000 as regards both sexes combined. Deaths in Victoria and England.

296. The death rate differs in different districts of the colony, as will be seen by the following figures, which show the mortality in the urban districts, distinguishing the metropolitan and the Deaths in town and country districts.

extra-metropolitan, and the extra-urban districts, during the year 1873:—

Deaths in Urban and Country Districts, 1873.

Districts.	Estimated Mean Population.	Deaths, 1873.	
		Total Number.	Number per 1,000 of the Population.
Urban metropolitan - -	233,047	4,628	19·86
Urban extra-metropolitan -	191,946	3,623	18·87
Extra-urban - - -	355,369	3,250	9·14
Total - -	780,362	11,501	14·74

Large mortality in towns accounted for.

297. Taking all the urban districts together, the mortality is equal to 19·41 to every 1,000 of the population. The mortality of extra-urban districts is no doubt much reduced, and that of urban districts proportionately augmented, owing to the fact that persons who, under ordinary circumstances, live in the country districts are in the habit, on the outbreak of illness which promises to be dangerous, of coming to the towns, and that many of them end their days there. This practice no doubt arises partly in consequence of all the hospitals, wherein 1,462 deaths, or 18 per cent. of those which occurred in the urban districts during 1873, being situated in the towns, and partly because, even out of hospitals, the medical attendance and nursing sick persons would receive in towns might reasonably be supposed to be of a superior description to that they would be able to obtain in country districts.

Deaths in each month.

298. The following table shows the deaths in each month during the year under review, and the proportion of the deaths in each month to the total deaths in the year, placed side by side with a similar calculation extending over a period of 10 years:

Deaths in each Month.

Months.	Deaths, 1873.	Per-centage of Deaths occurring in each Month to the Total Deaths.	
		Year 1873.	Mean of Ten Years.
January - - -	1,044	9·08	10·72
February - -	919	7·99	9·52
March - - -	1,048	9·11	10·70
April - - -	1,163	10·11	9·76
May - - -	945	8·22	8·93
June - - -	801	6·96	7·74
July - - -	1,000	8·69	7·42
August - - -	835	7·26	6·89
September - -	868	7·55	6·35
October - - -	933	8·11	6·65
November - -	838	7·29	6·58
December - -	1,107	9·63	8·74
Total - -	11,501	100·00	100·00

Mortality at different seasons.

299. The mortality is generally highest in the summer season; but this peculiarity has not been so strikingly marked as usual in the year under review. The relative mortality in it was below the average in January, February, March, May, and June, and above the average in the other seven months.

Mortality at each season in Victoria and England.

300. The returns of the Registrar-General for England and Wales do not distinguish the mortality in each month, but instead the mortality of each quarter is given. The quarterly returns of mortality in Victoria are compared in the following table with the returns for the corresponding periods of the year in England and Wales, the returns of Victoria being for 10 years, those of England and Wales for 31 years:

Mortality at different Seasons in Victoria and England and Wales.

Quarter ended—		Deaths per 100 at all Seasons	
Victoria.	England and Wales.	Victoria (average of 10 years).	England and Wales (average of 31 years).
31st March - -	30th September -	30·94	23·24
30th June - -	31st December -	26·43	24·65
30th September -	31st March -	20·66	27·49
31st December -	30th June - -	21·97	24·62
	Total - -	100·00	100·00

Results compared.

301. By these figures it would appear that the greatest mortality occurs in the summer quarter in Victoria, and in the winter quarter in England and Wales; that the next greatest mortality is in the autumn quarter in Victoria, and the next in the spring quarter, but that in England and Wales the mortality of the autumn and spring quarters is nearly identical; and that the period of least mortality in Victoria is the winter quarter, and in England and Wales the summer quarter.

Deaths in each quarter, 1873.

302. In the year under review the per-centage of deaths in the four quarters respectively was 26·18, 25·29, 23·50, and 25·03. The mortality was thus more evenly spread over the whole year than usual.

Population and deaths at each age.

303. In the following table the deaths of males and females in 1873, at each year of age, are placed side by side with the estimated numbers of either sex at the same ages in the population. The per-centage of those who died at each age to the total number of deaths, and the per-centage of those living at each age to the total numbers living are also shown:—

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Population and Deaths at each Age, 1873, with Proportions.

NUMBERS.

Ages.	Estimated Population at each Age, 1873.			Number of Deaths at each Age, 1873.*		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5 years -	62,418	62,147	124,565	2,564	2,340	4,904
5 years to 10 years -	56,710	56,986	113,696	318	286	604
10 „ 15 „ -	45,551	45,813	91,364	134	150	284
15 „ 25 „ -	53,236	57,798	111,034	283	296	579
25 „ 35 „ -	65,800	53,262	119,062	483	413	896
35 „ 45 „ -	77,608	44,734	122,342	839	480	1,319
45 „ 55 „ -	40,946	21,410	62,356	782	348	1,130
55 „ 65 „ -	15,963	9,215	25,178	565	239	804
65 „ 75 „ -	5,355	3,457	8,812	365	241	606
75 and upwards -	1,142	811	1,953	232	143	375
Total - -	424,729	355,633	780,362	6,565	4,936	11,501

PROPORTIONS PER CENT.

Under 5 years -	14·70	17·48	15·95	39·06	47·41	42·64
5 years to 10 years -	13·35	16·02	14·57	4·84	5·79	5·25
10 „ 15 „ -	10·73	12·88	11·71	2·04	3·04	2·47
15 „ 25 „ -	12·53	16·25	14·23	4·31	6·00	5·03
25 „ 35 „ -	15·49	14·98	15·26	7·36	8·37	7·79
35 „ 45 „ -	18·27	12·58	15·68	12·78	9·72	11·47
45 „ 55 „ -	9·64	6·02	7·99	11·91	7·05	9·83
55 „ 65 „ -	3·76	2·59	3·23	8·61	4·84	6·99
65 „ 75 „ -	1·26	·97	1·13	5·56	4·88	5·27
75 and upwards -	·27	·23	·25	3·53	2·90	3·26
Total - -	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

Deaths at different ages.

304. A reference to the figures in this table will show that nearly half the males and more than half the females who died in the year were under 10 years of age; also that both sexes under 5 years and over 45 years of age died in larger proportions than their numbers in the population, but at ages between 5 and 45 the proportions dying of either sex were smaller than the corresponding numbers at the same age in the population.

Deaths at various ages in Victoria and England.

305. It may be observed that the mortality of children under 5 was exceptionally low, and that of persons over 75 was exceptionally high, during the year under review. This will be seen more plainly by an examination of the figures in the following table, which gives the number of deaths of males and females at various ages in every 1,000 of either sex living at the same ages in the colony of Victoria during the year under notice, and during an average of 10 years; also in England and Wales, calculated upon an average of 30 years.

* Omitting the unspecified as to age.

Mortality per 1,000 *living at different Ages in Victoria and England and Wales.*

Ages.	Number of Deaths to every 1,000 Living at each Age.					
	Victoria.				England and Wales, average of 30 Years.	
	Year 1873.		Average of 10 Years.			
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
All Ages - -	15·45	13·88	16·68	16·13	23·33	21·51
Under 5 years -	41·08	37·65	55·08	49·66	72·42	62·46
5 years to 10 years -	5·61	5·03	7·52	6·95	8·79	8·67
10 „ 15 „ -	2·94	3·27	3·27	3·25	4·95	5·10
15 „ 25 „ -	5·31	5·12	4·95	4·81	7·90	8·22
25 „ 35 „ -	7·34	7·75	7·85	8·28	9·93	10·15
35 „ 45 „ -	10·81	10·73	12·09	11·12	13·03	12·30
45 „ 55 „ -	19·10	16·25	17·52	13·20	18·16	15·67
55 „ 65 „ -	35·39	25·94	29·71	21·98	31·53	28·56
65 „ 75 „ -	68·16	69·71	53·79	43·10	68·54	57·52
75 and upwards* -	203·15	176·32	111·71	93·02	147·74	135·36

306. It will be remarked that, in Victoria, the mortality of males in proportion to their numbers in the population is greater than that of females at all periods of life, except between 25 and 35 years of age; but that in England and Wales, relatively to their numbers, the mortality of females is greater than that of males at the three periods occurring between 10 and 35 years of age, the mortality of males being, however, greater than that of females at all other periods. Deaths of males and females at different ages.

307. The fact that the average mortality, both of males and females, at each period of life is lower in Victoria than it is in England and Wales is fully brought out by the figures. This is especially noticeable in regard to children under 5 years and between 5 and 10 years of age, to whom the circumstances and climate of Victoria are by many supposed to be exceptionally fatal, whereas these are in reality much less so than those which prevail in England. Mortality of children in Victoria and England.

* The figures in this line relating to England and Wales apply to males and females at from 5 to 85 only. The Victorian returns apply to all over 75.

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Mortality of infants.

308. Besides the comparison of the deaths of children at each age with the total numbers at the same ages living, a further means of ascertaining the fitness of a country for rearing children in is by comparing the mortality of children dying before they complete their first year with the number of births. This is done in the following table for each of the 10 years ending with 1873:—

Mortality of Infants, 1864–1873.

Year.	Number of Births.	Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.	
		Total Number.	Proportion to every 100 Births.
1864 - - -	25,680	2,778	10·8
1865 - - -	25,915	3,538	13·6
1866 - - -	25,010	3,838	15·3
1867 - - -	25,608	3,534	13·8
1868 - - -	27,243	3,054	11·2
1869 - - -	26,040	3,284	12·6
1870 - - -	27,151	3,203	11·8
1871 - - -	27,382	3,114	11·3
1872 - - -	27,361	3,334	12·2
1873 - - -	28,100	3,181	11·3
Mean of 10 Years -	26,549	3,286	12·4

Infant mortality in Victoria and England.

309. The mortality of infants, calculated upon this principle, is much lower than that of England and Wales, where deaths of children who had not completed their first year of age amounted in 1869 to 15·6 per cent., and in 1870 to 16 per cent., of the births. These were not years of exceptional mortality, and yet the same proportions have not been reached during even the worst years in Victoria.

Mortality of male and female infants.

310. Both here and in England a larger number of male than of female infants die. In the year under review, the former amounted to 1,679, and the latter to 1,502, which numbers furnish proportions relatively to the births of either sex of 11·80 and 10·82 per cent. respectively. In an average extending over the five previous years the corresponding per-centages were 12·65 and 10·97. In England and Wales, during the year 1870, deaths of male children under one year were in the proportion of 17·4 per cent. of the births of males, and those of female children under one year were in the proportion of 14·5 per cent. of the births of females.

Deaths from each class of diseases in Victoria and England.

311. The proportion that deaths from each class of diseases bear to the total deaths in Victoria and England and Wales is shown in the following table:—

Deaths from each Class of Diseases, Proportion to Deaths from all causes, in Victoria and England Wales.

Results compared.

Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths in 1,000 from all Causes.		
	Victoria.		England and Wales.
	Year 1873.	Average of 16 Years.	Average of 10 Years.
Zymotic diseases -	254·51	304·71	227·43
Constitutional - -	139·56	130·56	187·54
Local - - -	386·39	320·05	388·81
Developmental - -	140·69	151·97	161·17
Violence - - -	78·85	92·71	35·05
Total - -	1,000·00	1,000·00	1,000·00

Results compared.

312. Relatively to the total mortality, that from zymotic diseases, including all those of an endemic, epidemic, contagious, or infectious character, is greater in Victoria than in England and Wales, as also is that from external causes and violence; the mortality from constitutional diseases, including phthisis or consumption, tabes mesenterica, scrofula, &c.; that from local diseases, being those which have their seat in particular organs; and that from developmental diseases, being those of growth, nutrition, and decay—is less in Victoria than in England.

Deaths from each cause and population in Victoria and England.

313. A better way, however, of ascertaining the relative mortality of the two countries is to compare the deaths from each class of diseases with the total population of each country, and this is done in the following table:—

Deaths from each Class of Diseases, Proportion to Living Population, in Victoria and England and Wales.

Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths to every 1,000 of Mean Living Population.		
	Victoria.		England and Wales.
	Year 1873.	Average of 16 Years.	Average of 10 Years.
All causes - -	14·74	17·21	22·47
Specified causes - -	14·69	17·04	22·32
Zymotic diseases -	3·74	5·28	5·07
Constitutional „ -	2·05	2·21	4·19
Local „ -	5·67	5·40	8·68
Developmental „ -	2·07	2·58	3·60
Violence - -	1·16	1·57	·78

VICTORIA.

Results compared.

314. It will be observed that, in proportion to the population, a lower rate of mortality from all classes of diseases prevailed in Victoria during the year under review than in England, but that, on the average, the mortality from zymotic diseases is somewhat higher, and that from all other classes of diseases is considerably lower, in Victoria than in England; also that the proportion of violent deaths is always much greater in Victoria than it is in England.

Deaths from typhoid fever.

315. Zymotic diseases are generally most prevalent in the summer months, and are especially fatal to children. A complaint which forms an exception to this rule is typhoid fever, from which adults suffer also, and which is most common in the months of April and May, although sporadic cases occur all the year round. As considerable alarm existed a short time since in respect to this complaint, I have thought it sufficiently important to devote to it a separate table, showing the number of deaths and their proportion to the living population during each of the last 10 years:—

Deaths from Typhoid Fever, 1864–1873.

Year.	Estimated Mean Population.	Deaths from Typhoid Fever.	
		Total Number.	Number per 10,000 of Population.
1864 - - -	589,160	250	4·24
1865 - - -	616,375	291	4·72
1866 - - -	634,077	528	8·33
1867 - - -	649,826	455	7·00
1868 - - -	671,222	295	4·40
1869 - - -	696,942	360	5·16
1870 - - -	709,839	416	5·86
1871 - - -	738,725	269	3·64
1872 - - -	760,991	323	4·24
1873 - - -	780,362	282	3·61
Mean of 10 Years -	684,752	347	5·07

Deathrate from typhoid fever.

316. It will be noticed that the death rate from this disease differs considerably in different years, it having been lowest in the year under review and highest in the years 1866 and 1867. In the two last-mentioned years the mortality from all causes was also above the average. It is well known that a wide-spread belief gained ground during a portion of the present year (1874) that this complaint was prevailing in the Colony to an unusual extent and in a very fatal form. Whether this supposition was correct, and, if so, to what extent the total mortality of the year will be affected by the disease, cannot be known until after the year has been completed.

Deaths from diseases affecting children.

317. The zymotic diseases which frequently prove fatal to children, but more rarely to adults, are measles, scarlatina, diphtheria, whooping cough, dysentery, and diarrhœa. The number

of deaths from these, and of those from atrophy and debility (classed under the head of developmental diseases), during the last 10 years, are shown in the following table:—

Deaths from Diseases chiefly affecting Children, 1864–1873.

Year.	Number of Deaths from						
	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Dysentery.	Diarrhœa.	Atrophy and Debility.
1864 - -	7	278	451	25	243	528	602
1865 - -	11	215	391	304	402	864	749
1866 - -	427	442	331	365	525	1,027	817
1867 - -	630	621	334	205	430	986	746
1868 - -	24	460	451	243	220	640	665
1869 - -	24	224	493	100	306	858	723
1870 - -	3	24	418	50	244	706	790
1871 - -	4	27	255	318	316	626	679
1872 - -	7	135	320	227	424	747	692
1873 - -	1	188	420	299	357	629	714
Mean of 10 Years -	113·8	263·4	386·4	213·6	346·7	761·1	717·7
Average Number of Deaths per 10,000 of the Population- -	1·67	3·84	5·64	3·12	5·06	11·12	10·48

318. It will be observed that diarrhœa is the most fatal of all these complaints, and next to it atrophy and debility; that measles is, on the average, the least fatal of the complaints named, but that in 1866 more deaths occurred from it than from either diphtheria or whooping cough, and in 1867 more deaths occurred from it than from either scarlatina, diphtheria, whooping cough, or dysentery.

Death rate from diseases of children.

319. It will be seen by the following figures that the proportions from these diseases to the living population differ greatly from the proportions obtaining in England and Wales. The averages are for 10 years in Victoria and for five years in England and Wales:—

Diseases of children in Victoria and England.

Deaths per 10,000 *Living.*

	Victoria.	England and Wales.
Measles - - - - -	1·67	4·52
Scarlatina - - - -	3·84	8·57
Diphtheria - - - -	5·64	1·45
Whooping Cough - - -	3·12	5·32
Dysentery - - - -	5·06	·48
Diarrhœa - - - -	11·12	10·39
Atrophy and Debility - - -	10·48	14·91

VICTORIA.

Death from phthisis.

320. Phthisis has within the last 10 years caused more than 8,000 deaths in Victoria, and both in the Colony and in England is the most fatal of all diseases. The total mortality and the mortality in proportion to the population from this complaint are shown in the following table :—

Deaths from Phthisis, 1864–1873.

Year.	Estimated Mean Population.	Deaths from Phthisis.	
		Total Number.*	Number per 10,000 of Population.
1864 - - -	589,160	686	11·64
1865 - - -	616,375	741	12·02
1866 - - -	634,077	782	12·33
1867 - - -	649,826	793	12·20
1868 - -	671,222	746	11·11
1869 - - -	696,942	893	12·81
1870 - - -	709,839	888	12·51
1871 - - -	738,725	841	11·38
1872 - - - -	760,991	876	11·51
1873 - - -	780,362	945	12·11
Mean of 10 Years -	684,752	819	11·96

Death rate from phthisis.

321. A remarkable evenness in the mortality from phthisis in relation to the population is observable throughout the decenniad. The average number of deaths over the whole period was within a fraction of 12 per 1,000 persons living, and in not one of the years were the numbers so low as 11 or so high as 13. It must be remembered, however, that the population at the ages most subject to phthisis has decreased during the period, and therefore the complaint is really more fatal now in Victoria than it was some years since.†

Death rate from phthisis in Melbourne and suburbs.

322. The death rate from phthisis in relation to the whole population is very much lower in Victoria than it is in England and Wales, where, in the 10 years 1860–1869, the average mortality from this disease was at the rate of 25·47 per 10,000 of the inhabitants of the kingdom. The mortality from phthisis in Melbourne and suburbs compares more nearly with that of England, the deaths from it in the 10 years ending with 1873 having been at the annual rate of 21·23 per 10,000 inhabitants. In 1863 deaths from phthisis in Melbourne and suburbs were in the proportion of 23·71 to every 10,000 of the living population, or much above the average.

Deaths of women in childbirth.

323. Deaths of women in childbirth are classified in two ways, according to the manner in which the death occurs. Should it arise from the consequences of childbearing, but without specific

* Deaths registered as occurring from hæmoptysis are included in this column.

† Between the censuses of 1861 and 1871 the male population between 20 and 35 years of age decreased by 48,766, and the female population between 25 and 30 decreased by 1,394. *See* Government Statist's Report on the census of 1871, pp. 12 and 13.

disease, it is classified simply as childbirth, under the head developmental diseases; but should it be occasioned by puerperal fever or metria, it is classified under the latter term, as a zymotic disease. Metria, as is well known, is a febrile disease of a very malignant character, solely affecting childbearing women, and is believed to be highly contagious, and to be often carried from the bedside of one lying-in woman to that of another by medical men and nurses. The following table gives the number of deaths from these two phases of childbirth in each of the last 10 years, and the proportion of mothers dying to the number of children born :—

Deaths of Women in Childbirth, 1864–1873.

Year.	Number of Births.	Number of Deaths of Mothers from			Number of Deaths of Mothers to every 10,000 Children born alive.
		Childbirth.	Metria.	Total.	
1864 - - -	25,680	100	21	121	47·12
1865 - - -	25,915	99	24	123	47·46
1866 - - -	25,010	112	26	138	55·18
1867 - - -	25,608	117	20	137	53·51
1868 - - -	27,243	110	23	133	48·82
1869 - - -	26,040	105	18	123	47·23
1870 - - -	27,151	115	9	124	45·67
1871 - - -	27,382	90	12	102	37·25
1872 - - -	27,361	123	16	139	50·80
1873 - - -	28,100	127	44	171	60·85
Mean of 10 years	26,549	110	21	131	49·34

Deaths from metria, 1873.

324. It will be observed that a considerable increase in the number of deaths from metria took place in 1873, as compared with former years, and that the proportion of mothers who died was greater in that than in any other year of the decenniad.

Deaths in childbirth in Victoria and England.

325. In the 10 years the proportion of mothers dying, stated in different words from those which would be used to quote the exact figures in the table, was 1 to every 203 births, and in the year under review it was 1 to every 164 births. In England and Wales, a proportion extending over the 24 years, 1847–70, differs slightly from the Victorian average, the figures being 48·98 mothers dying to every 10,000 births, or 1 mother dying to every 204 births.

Deaths in Lying-in Hospital.

326. The mortality of women confined in maternity hospitals has been found in all countries to be greater than that of women delivered at home, and the returns of the Melbourne Lying-in Hospital during the year 1873 fully bear out this experience. The number of children born alive in that institution during the year was 375, and the number of deaths of women from childbirth or metria was 14. The proportions therefore were equivalent to those of 373 mothers dying to 10,000 children born alive, or 1 mother dying to every 27 births. This rate of mortality may fairly be considered as enormous.

VICTORIA.

Violent deaths.

327. It has been already shown (pars. 312 and 314, *ante*), that, relatively to the population, violent deaths are more frequent in Victoria than in England. These are classified under the heads of accident, homicide, suicide, and execution. The following are the numbers which occurred in Victoria during the last 10 years from each of those causes :—

Deaths from External Causes, 1864–1873.

Year.	Number of Deaths from									
	Accidents.		Homicide.		Suicide.		Executions.		Total.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1864 - -	591	161	14	2	55	11	4	—	664	174
1865 - -	656	157	19	7	51	13	5	—	731	177
1866 - -	630	139	14	4	68	13	3	—	715	156
1867 - -	601	148	12	12	55	8	5	—	673	168
1868 - -	665	163	12	7	59	8	3	—	739	178
1869 - -	632	134	17	6	53	15	3	—	705	155
1870 - -	641	146	15	14	60	14	5	—	721	174
1871 - -	620	148	13	8	69	21	2	—	704	177
1872 - -	621	138	8	7	62	9	2	—	693	154
1873 - -	602	180	14	6	84	13	5	—	705	199
Total -	6,259	1,514	138	73	616	125	37	—	7,050	1,712
Both sexes -	7,773		211		741		37		8,762	

Violent deaths of males and females.

328. Under all the headings, as will be observed, the deaths of females are much fewer than those of males, and there is no case of a female having been executed during the 10 years. The males who died violent deaths were in the proportion of 18·57 to every 100,000 of the living male population, and the females were in the proportion of 5·61 to every 100,000 females living.

Violent deaths in Victoria and England.

329. The following are the average yearly numbers of deaths from violence under each heading in proportion to every 100,000 of the living population of Victoria and England and Wales, the experience in either case being that of 10 years :—

Violent Deaths per 100,000 *of the Living Population.*

	Victoria.	England and Wales.
Accidents - - - - -	113·52	68·53
Homicide - - - - -	3·08	1·95
Suicide - - - - -	10·82	6·69
Execution - - - - -	·54	·06
Violent deaths not classified - - -	—	1·03
Total violent deaths - - -	127·96	78·27

330. The total number of cases of sickness treated in all the hospitals in Victoria during the year was 14,585, and the number of deaths 1,464 or about 1 death to every 10 cases of sickness. Death rate in Hospitals.

331. The cases of sickness in benevolent asylums numbered 1,694, and the deaths 168, in the year under review; the proportion of the latter to the former was thus about 1 to 10. Death rate in Benevolent Asylums.

332. In the Melbourne Immigrants' Home no record was kept of the non-fatal cases of sickness which occurred during the year. The number of fatal cases amounted to 65. Death rate in Immigrants' Home.

333. In orphan asylums, 413 cases of sickness occurred during the year, and of these 6, or 1 in 69, terminated fatally. Death rate in Orphan Asylums.

334. The number of cases of sickness in industrial and reformatory schools during the year amounted to 2,670, and the deaths to 37, or about 1 death to every 72 cases of sickness. Death rate in Industrial Schools.

335. The hospital cases in gaols and penal establishments amounted to 6,533 during the year, and the deaths to 35, or 1 death to every 187 cases. Death rate in Gaols, &c.

336. The number of sick cases in hospitals for the insane during the year was 1,396, and the total number of deaths was 168. Eleven of these deaths were set down simply to insanity. The deaths resulting from actual sickness therefore numbered 157, or 1 death to every 9 cases. Death rate in Lunatic Asylums.

337. One hundred and eighty-two cases of sickness occurred in the Victorian Artillery Corps during the year, and one of these cases terminated fatally. Death rate in Artillery corps.

338. Fifty-three cases of sickness, but no death, occurred in the private lunatic asylum at Cremorne during the year. Sickness in Cremorne Asylum.

339. In connexion with the death rates, the ages of inmates of hospitals, and of benevolent, orphan, and lunatic asylums should be considered; these during the year were as follow:— Ages in charitable institutions.

Ages of Inmates of Charitable Institutions, 1873.

Ages.	Hospitals.	Benevolent Asylums, &c.	Orphan Asylums.	Lunatic Asylums.
Under 5 years - -	284	511	114	—
5 years to 10 years -	556	356	567	44
10 „ 15 „ -	835	117	475	45
15 „ 25 „ -	2,553	862	25	366
25 „ 35 „ -	2,820	2,082	- - -	816
35 „ 45 „ -	3,173	2,104	- - -	870
45 „ 55 „ -	2,191	1,866	- - -	450
55 „ 65 „ -	1,335	1,189	- - -	179
65 and upwards - -	763	1,297	- - -	86
Age unknown - -	10	- - -	- - -	373
Total - -	14,520	10,384	1,181	3,229

340. The following is a summary of the deaths which occurred in public institutions during the year under notice:— Deaths in public institutions.

Deaths in Public Institutions, 1873.

	Number of Deaths.
Hospitals - - - -	1,464
Benevolent asylums, &c. - -	233
Orphan asylums - - -	6
Hospitals for the insane - -	168
Blind asylum - - -	1
Industrial schools - - -	35
Reformatories - - -	2
Gaols - - - -	28
Penal establishments - - -	7
Total - - -	1,944

Proportion of deaths in public institutions.

341. It will be observed that the number who died in public institutions during the year was 1,944, and as the total number of deaths in the Colony in the same period was 11,501, it follows that 1 person out of every 6 persons that died ended his life in a hospital, an asylum, or a gaol.

Vaccinations.

342. The number of children vaccinated during the year was 22,376. The births during the year amounted, as has been already stated, to 28,100. By this it would appear that, notwithstanding the penalties provided for non-compliance with the requirements of the Vaccination Statute, not more than 80 per cent. of the children born in Victoria are vaccinated.

Meteorological observations, 1873.

343. The following is a summary of the meteorological observations taken during the year at stations in different parts of the Colony:—

Meteorological Observations at various Stations, 1873.

Stations.	Height above Sea Level.	Temperature in the Shade.			Mean Atmospheric Pressure.	Days on which Rain fell.	Amount of Rainfall.	Mean relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud.
		Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.					
	feet.	°	°	°	inches.	No.	inches.	1-0	0-10
Portland -	37·0	—	—	62·0	29·994	186	30·77	·789	4·1
Melbourne -	91·3	102·4	30·2	58·0	29·944	134	25·61	·723	6·0
Cape Otway	270·0	100·0	35·0	56·0	29·768	163	32·11	·885	7·4
Sandhurst -	758·0	105·6	32·4	58·8	29·228	115	20·54	·694	4·9
Ararat -	1050·0	—	—	—	—	107	21·45	—	—
Ballarat -	1438·0	101·0	27·8	56·0	28·510	119	27·49	·654	6·2

Meteorological observations in Melbourne.

344. The times at which the observations are taken whereby the records of the mean temperature and mean atmospheric pressure are obtained differ at the various stations; but a correction is applied, in order to make the results equivalent to those which would be derived from hourly observations taken throughout the day and night. The following are the results for Melbourne in the 10 years ending with the one under review:—

Meteorological Observations, Melbourne, 1864–1873.—(*Observatory 91·3 feet above Sea Level.*) VICTORIA

Year.	Temperature in the Shade.			Mean Atmospheric Pressure.	Days on which Rain fell.	Amount of Rainfall.	Mean Relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.					
	°	°	°	inches.	No.	inches.	0–1	0–10
1864	96·6	30·5	57·0	29·945	153	27·398	·723	6·1
1865	103·4	30·9	56·5	29·936	139	15·920	·678	5·6
1866	108·2	28·0	57·8	29·954	107	22·410	·697	5·5
1867	108·4	29·7	57·7	29·918	133	25·790	·720	5·7
1868	110·0	27·4	57·1	29·977	120	18·270	·700	5·7
1869	108·4	27·0	57·2	29·938	129	24·586	·710	6·0
1870	109·0	29·6	57·4	29·930	129	33·764	·740	5·8
1871	106·0	32·1	57·7	29·925	125	30·170	·740	5·9
1872	103·3	32·5	57·6	29·293	136	32·521	·740	6·4
1873	102·4	30·2	58·0	29·944	134	25·610	·723	6·0

345. It will be observed that the mean temperature was higher in the year under notice than in any other year of the decenniad; that the mean atmospheric pressure was higher than in any other year except 1864, 1866, and 1868; that rain fell on more days than in any other year except 1864, 1865, and 1872; but that the amount of rainfall was exceeded in all the years except 1865, 1866, 1868, and 1869; that the mean relative humidity was the same as that in 1864, and was greater than in any other year except the three years ended with 1872; also that the amount of cloud was the same as that in 1869, and was exceeded only in 1864 and 1872. Results compared.

CONCLUSION.

346. In bringing this Report to a close, I beg respectfully to draw your attention to the fact that the Part "Vital Statistics," which should be one of the first portions of the statistics issued in each year, has not yet been published; and this, notwithstanding every effort has been made in this department to expedite its preparation; and to point out the desirability of some change being made in the disposition of the registrations of births, deaths, and marriages, without which I fear that this delay will be of annual recurrence. Delay in publishing Vital Statistics.

347. The charge of the registrations was, when the department was divided, still left with the Registral-General, but the work connected therewith has ever since been dealt with partly in his department and partly in that of the Government Statist. This arrangement in many respects works badly, and I believe there would be little difficulty in showing that the whole of the duties under the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Statute more naturally appertains to the department of the Government Statist than to any other office. Change of system recommended.

348. The evil of having the registers placed under a divided responsibility will, I doubt not, be at once evident, when it is Importance of registration documents.

borne in mind that they are important legal documents, involving immense interests, and containing matters which, if made public, might be productive of serious injury to individuals. The care necessary to preserve the documents from damage, loss, and even possibly from falsification, and the secresy which should be maintained in respect to the subjects they contain, are, I have no hesitation in saying, not compatible with their being constantly passed about from one department to another, and turned over by several sets of officers.

Vital Statistics only partially correct at present.

349. Under the present system, moreover, it is not possible to obtain vital statistics of more than partial accuracy, a most important matter in a new country, where the probabilities of life and death have yet to be determined. In consequence of the time occupied in the lengthened examination to which the registers are subjected in the Registrar-General's office for omissions and errors in regard to names, dates, &c., and in the subsequent compilation of indexes, the documents are received so late by the Government Statist that he is compelled to cause them to be tabulated without loss of time, and is therefore obliged to leave almost or altogether unquestioned, misstatements, ambiguities, or insufficient information in recording the causes of death and other matters of a technical character which should be fully inquired into. If the examining officer possessed the requisite training, the examination for these matters could be done effectually at the same period as the examination already referred to, and at the expenditure of very little more time and labour than are now spent upon that work; and the matters requiring amendment, or on which fuller information might be needed, could all be referred to the deputy registrar at one time, and by means of a single communication—a less complicated process than the present, according to which, if any question is raised by the Government Statist, a second communication to the Deputy Registrar becomes necessary,

Improvements suggested.

350. There are certain further matters of detail in relation to which it can be shown that improvement would be effected by the consolidation of the work in the manner I recommend. One of these is the indexing of deaths and marriages now done by the Registrar-General, which could easily be performed by means of the same cards as those used by the Government Statist in tabulating the statistics. The two operations would then be executed at one time by the same officer, who would perform both processes almost, if not quite, as quickly as one of the officers now employed executes his moiety of the work. Economy of labour would thus be secured, the documents would be subjected to the scrutiny of a smaller nnmber of persons, and both indexes and statistics would be completed at an earlier date.

Conclusion.

351. Believing that, in the interests of the public, I am only fulfilling my duty in bringing these matters to your notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER,
Government Statist.

Statistical View of Queensland since Separation from New South Wales.

Year.	Population.					Moral and Intellectual Progress.						Production.								Year.
						Education.		Mechanics' Institutes.		Charitable Institutions.		Crown Lands.				Land under Crop.				
	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Immigration (excess over Emigration).	Population on 31st December.	Schools.	Scholars.	Subscribers.	Volumes in Library.	Number.	Persons Relieved.	Quantity sold by Auction.*	Amount Realised.	Number of Squatting Runs.	Area Leased.	Total Number of Acres under Cultivation.	Under Wheat.	Under Maize.	Under Potatoes.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Acres.	£	No.	Acres.	No.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
1860	1,236	278	478	—	28,056	41	1,890	—	—	6	397	23,587	37,978	1,300	41,027,200	3,353	214	1,536	333	1860
1861	1,423	320	500	—	34,367	43	2,438	536	4,890	6	491	56,849	94,063	1,727	51,811,200	4,440	392	1,914	512	1861
1862	1,702	570	797	9,805	45,077	54	3,060	779	4,232	6	648	67,873	106,019	1,926	57,200,000	6,067	739	2,767	467	1862
1863	2,221	774	1,275	14,394	61,640	72	5,452	797	5,369	6	1,075	62,948	108,828	2,545	74,286,080	11,262	1,417	3,994	872	1863
1864	2,833	951	1,446	10,959	74,036	89	6,858	753	6,692	7	1,447	139,814	210,725	2,849	84,729,760	12,006	1,922	4,959	1,368	1864
1865	3,532	1,074	1,733	11,969	87,804	101	9,091	1,133	6,807	7	1,626	145,799	224,403	3,236	98,634,880	14,414	2,068	6,244	1,307	1865
1866	4,127	1,068	2,362	8,396	96,201	129	10,955	1,216	8,916	12	2,546	113,598	141,325	3,470	106,123,520	24,433	2,566	9,930	1,587	1866
1867	4,476	935	1,745	917	99,849	148	11,393	1,072	9,068	14	1,763	41,765	49,837	3,619	171,093,920	31,559	2,657	10,598	1,913	1867
1868	4,460	863	1,799	4,287	107,427	167	12,628	816	10,044	15	1,840	57,070	61,085	3,969	179,696,950	39,321	3,783	12,663	2,027	1868
1869	4,654	903	1,761	†423	109,897	192	13,472	1,304	15,964	16	2,548	33,287	32,638	3,560	171,903,692	47,034	3,084	16,114	1,814	1869
1870	4,905	879	1,645	2,410	115,567	173	18,043	1,271	17,633	16	2,611	83,258	76,563	2,223	106,492,334	52,210	3,021	16,383	2,627	1870
1871	5,205	970	1,785	3,359	125,146	191	20,737	1,401	18,556	16	2,545	45,707	46,025	2,214	107,284,934	59,969	3,247	20,683	3,121	1871
1872	5,265	1,125	1,936	5,078	133,553	210	23,728	1,711	20,890	21	2,796	9,459	15,731	2,840	123,737,093	62,491	3,842	21,377	2,837	1872
1873	5,720	1,354	2,250	9,667	146,690	226	26,117	1,793	23,388	22	3,110	18,440	18,839	3,296	141,232,453	64,218	3,745	21,414	3,069	1873

continued.

Year.	Production.																			Year.
	Land under Crop.				Live Stock.				Mills, Manufactories, Works, &c.	Mining.										
										Gold.		Copper.‡			Tin.		Coal.		
	Under Cotton.	Under Sugarcane.	Under Grape Vines.	Other Tillage.	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.		Quantity by Escort.	Value.	Quantity of Ore raised.	Quantity of Refined Copper produced.	Value.	Quantity of Ore raised.	Value.	Quantity raised.	Value.	
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Ozs.	£	Tons.	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	
1860	14	—	—	1,256	23,504	432,890	3,166,802	7,147	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,327	9,244	1860
1861	395	—	40	1,187	28,983	560,196	4,093,381	7,465	15	—	—	49	1,450	—	—	—	14,212	9,920	1861
1862	392	—	61	1,641	36,532	637,296	4,553,353	7,066	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24,067	19,253	1862
1863	2,021	—	65	2,893	45,805	880,392	5,672,400	7,351	23	8,000	30,000	—	—	—	—	—	2,400	1,500	1863
1864	479	93	109	3,076	40,678	882,073	5,665,334	12,066	34	—	—	2,512	89	7,120	—	—	25,000	15,000	1864
1865	477	449	110	3,759	51,091	848,346	6,594,966	14,888	44	—	—	1,415	449	36,144	—	—	30,000	18,750	1865
1866	2,884	607	202	6,657	52,311	919,414	7,278,778	13,961	79	21,090	79,143	2,835	604	54,360	—	—	39,316	21,049	1866
1867	8,149	1,995	194	6,053	53,143	940,354	8,665,757	18,142	90	48,213	170,090	3,990	521	39,075	—	—	17,988	9,566	1867
1868	11,453	3,396	334	5,665	66,878	968,279	8,921,784	26,185	125	122,112	429,907	6,571	1,235	92,625	—	—	19,611	11,519	1868
1869	14,426	5,165	323	6,108	71,530	994,600	8,646,243	29,466	250	130,944	451,352	8,268	1,386	110,960	—	—	11,120	5,907	1869
1870	14,674	6,341	415	8,749	83,358	1,076,630	8,163,818	30,992	472	100,634	351,412	8,936	1,523	103,564	—	—	22,639	12,311	1870
1871	12,962	9,581	431	9,944	91,910	1,168,235	7,403,334	32,707	611	151,514	504,876	14,503	2,490	174,300	—	—	17,000	9,407	1871
1872	12,002	11,757	391	10,285	92,798	1,200,992	6,687,907	35,732	593	178,308	592,993	19,631	2,448	196,000	1,383	96,840	27,727	16,120	1872
1873	9,663	14,495	364	11,468	99,243	1,343,093	7,268,946	42,884	593	163,972	555,310	17,279	2,441	185,808	3,790	208,993	33,613	22,052	1873

* The quantity of land annually sold by auction since 1866 bears but a small proportion to the area in process of alienation, as Acts of Parliament were passed in 1866 and 1868 allowing the paymentsfor lands selected to extend over a period of 10 years. † Excess of departures over arrivals. ‡ Vide Statistics, 1871, page 143.

Statistical View of Queensland since Separation from New South Wales—*continued.*

Year.	Interchange.																				Year.
	Postal.					Shipping.				Exports (Seaward) the Produce of Queensland.											
						Inwards.		Outwards.		Wool.		Tallow.		Gold.		Copper.		Tin (Ore).			
	Letters.	Newspapers.	Packets.	Money Orders issued and paid.	Amount of Transactions.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
	No.	No.	No.	No.	£	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	Lbs.	£	Tons.	£	Ozs.	£	Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£		
1860	279,379	250,365	4,456	—	—	210	45,736	183	39,503	5,007,167	444,188	640	25,628	4,127	14,576	—	50	—	—		1860
1861	515,211	427,489	7,652	—	—	251	57,377	234	51,827	6,994,033	613,074	1,247	48,009	1,077	3,928	360	644	—	—		1861
1862	723,064	606,503	9,430	574	2,238	330	77,312	305	71,981	8,063,612	627,182	1,503	50,979	189	625	5,360	10,332	—	—		1862
1863	1,070,690	945,918	17,340	3,698	15,094	389	104,421	353	98,844	10,669,044	776,776	883	30,716	3,936	14,802	173	296	—	—		1863
1864	1,111,892	1,149,057	19,474	6,598	27,736	431	129,637	396	116,702	14,006,789	1,037,663	1,137	32,999	22,037	83,292	29	146	—	—		1864
1865	1,370,708	1,103,318	24,833	9,841	41,592	497	173,227	488	167,153	12,251,841	885,299	1,940	57,155	25,338	92,938	4,424	18,440	—	—		1865
1866	1,545,916	1,135,084	36,021	12,158	51,708	569	197,665	556	195,991	14,346,239	987,659	1,300	53,597	22,916	85,561	8,820	33,918	—	—		1866
1867	1,447,284	1,120,068	37,674	16,050	74,042	477	149,876	459	145,301	21,554,557	1,462,209	2,733	90,293	49,091	189,248	17,920	66,038	—	—		1867
1868	1,728,105	1,180,384	46,387	19,310	87,375	511	132,943	478	127,871	18,906,778	1,057,211	3,706	122,544	165,801	593,516	21,769	77,136	—	—		1868
1869	1,704,670	1,087,345	47,008	21,838	96,020	548	145,213	527	142,802	22,386,650	1,098,149	5,240	166,039	138,221	523,045	24,535	87,268	—	—		1869
1870	1,662,677	1,183,007	42,341	19,923	85,295	476	133,292	456	127,992	20,695,627	1,026,061	4,818	167,230	136,773	489,539	18,505	63,298	—	—		1870
1871	1,792,644	1,134,813	52,021	21,100	88,739	494	143,611	472	139,064	22,339,348	1,158,833	6,209	139,181	171,937	616,907	51,099	174,701	—	—		1871
1872	2,203,040	1,288,747	77,010	30,208	114,847	522	148,630	507	143,380	17,793,392	1,169,812	2,890	100,201	186,019	660,396	57,720	234,540	26,675	108,310		1872
1873	2,459,434	1,594,792	93,540	33,506	133,465	582	176,172	569	176,352	19,763,053	1,374,526	959	50,899	194,895	717,540	47,980	189,479	98,322	370,912		1873

continued.

Year.	Interchange.																						Year.
	Exports (Seaward) the Produce of Queensland.															Imports.	Exports.	Railways.		Electric Telegraph.			
	Tin (smelted).		Cotton.		Live stock.		Meat.		Sugar (Raw).		Rum.		Timber (value).	Coal (value).									
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Fresh and preserved (value).	Extract (value).	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.				Total Value.	Total Value.	Miles open.	Number of Passengers.	Miles of Wire.	Number of Messages.		
	Cwt.	£	Lbs.	£	No.	£	£	£	Cwt.	£	Gls.	£	£	£		£	£	No.	No.	No.	No.		
1860	—	—	—	—	—	510	5,356	—	—	—	—	—	2,442	646		742,023	523,477	—	—	—	—		1860
1861	—	—	—	—	4	3,103	1,845	1,198	—	—	—	—	2,629	1,870		967,951	709,599	—	—	169	5,678		1861
1862	—	—	14,344	1,423	1,320	1,467	510	—	—	—	—	—	3,066	3,642		1,323,509	793,236	—	—	169	16,833		1862
1863	—	—	31,557	3,056	659	1,469	258	—	—	—	—	—	5,482	4,279		1,713,263	888,381	—	—	221	19,219		1863
1864	—	—	38,730	4,186	274	1,208	229	—	—	—	—	—	8,039	141		2,267,954	1,247,054	—	—	298	27,246		1864
1865	—	—	145,820	12,197	2,175	6,404	765	—	—	—	—	—	8,383	3		2,505,559	1,153,464	21	17,297	1,131	47,697		1865
1866	—	—	207,272	19,618	9,139	38,948	14,468	2,800	—	—	—	—	13,625	32		2,467,907	1,366,491	50	38,569	1,565	64,372		1866
1867	—	—	412,941	26,631	3,667	12,524	3,298	23,150	—	—	—	—	17,802	—		1,747,735	2,198,609	136	18,392	1,752	63,412		1867
1868	—	—	1,809,628	68,929	494	2,160	7,903	30,165	—	—	2,072	380	16,578	25		1,899,119	2,107,437	160	24,615	1,811	67,111		1868
1869	—	—	1,118,899	51,217	2,170	9,902	5,660	30,623	—	—	31,508	4,966	30,241	202		1,804,578	2,166,806	206	26,178	2,182	70,112		1869
1870	—	—	1,630,755	73,437	1,757	4,119	16,303	46,720	26	41	35,379	5,490	19,937	—		1,577,339	2,533,732	206	35,853	2,221	81,483		1870
1871	—	—	2,602,100	79,317	506	2,373	37,844	42,118	11,017	16,238	47,313	5,976	26,216	—		1,562,665	2,760,045	218	37,539	2,614	82,630		1871
1872	—	—	1,486,987	59,774	7	2,095	62,688	4,891	23,949	36,803	53,695	7,899	20,079	3		2,218,717	2,998,934	218	40,539	3,368	121,970		1872
1873	4,635	26,279	1,375,216	48,673	856	5,626	62,322	1,764	28,322	40,314	61,871	8,824	27,196	515		2,885,499	3,542,513	218	58,591	3,609	156,608		1873

Statistical View of Queensland since Separation from New South Wales—*continued.*

Year.	Accumulation.								Finance.						Year.
	Banks.						Savings' Bank.		Revenue (exclusive of Land Orders).	Expenditure.	Loans authorised.	Expenditure on Loan Account.	Land Orders.		
	Total Liabilities on 31st December.	Note Circulation.	Deposits.	Total Assets on 31st December.	Coin.	Advances.	Number of Depositors.	Balance to Credit on 31st December.					Issued.	Negotiated.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	No.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1860	332,173	42,765	286,917	574,661	63,843	490,861	163	7,545	178,589	161,503	—	19,384	—	—	1860
1861	390,238	63,104	322,310	730,917	84,916	618,315	242	12,192	238,238	255,180	123,800	43,826	18,575	13,337	1861
1862	442,245	87,103	341,155	888,879	105,268	751,678	489	20,562	295,286	317,026	—	50,290	90,383	51,144	1862
1863	598,941	107,634	472,765	1,235,961	128,632	1,055,989	655	26,789	295,215	355,791	707,436	48,610	166,471	95,607	1863
1864	928,409	137,799	757,153	1,825,782	178,503	1,571,188	876	30,662	369,425	439,034	1,019,000	401,421	114,718	133,031	1864
1865	1,000,924	181,615	770,912	2,281,461	193,017	2,028,207	1,798	56,516	472,451	459,025	1,170,950	685,246	227,796	192,541	1865
1866	905,668	126,957	750,604	2,225,436	218,656	1,906,579	2,466	86,499	490,269	594,130	300,000	965,346	151,154	151,281	1866
1867	1,025,286	125,272	868,816	2,000,558	307,907	1,586,033	3,130	123,158	610,860	661,795	—	693,428	32,726	58,788	1867
1868	1,214,586	167,568	1,018,566	2,051,227	333,062	1,583,817	4,276	220,662	724,854	742,207	—	207,845	41,086	55,308	1868
1869	1,138,639	152,865	961,612	2,002,822	279,238	1,576,747	5,327	300,522	738,218	761,594	—	117,077	52,541	34,710	1869
1870	1,092,053	146,921	923,556	1,725,494	264,872	1,306,769	5,821	332,843	743,058	764,491	765,600	155,256	25,262	43,480	1870
1871	1,436,076	170,601	1,240,696	1,695,310	279,375	1,203,938	6,769	407,134	799,005	787,555	—	135,374	12,745	24,310	1871
1872	1,842,848	229,509	1,590,283	2,200,346	481,848	1,489,515	8,121	466,754	988,888	865,743	1,466,500	156,424	1,673	8,133	1872
1873	2,408,699	287,854	2,067,845	2,917,071	551,511	2,153,698	10,034	504,339	1,120,034	956,335	—	408,502	1,687	7,390	1873

The Colony of Queensland comprises the north-eastern portion of the Continent of Australia—its northern extremity is Cape York, and its southern (on the coast) Point Danger. The one hundred and thirty-eighth degree of longitude is its boundary on the west.

The area of the Colony is 678,000 square miles, and its sea-board extends 2,250 miles.

The Colony is divided into 42 Electorates, each of which returns one member. It has 17 municipalities, and about 40 small towns or townships.

From the returns of the Census of 1871, it appears that, out of the entire population, 47,300 are Australian born (of whom 36,400 were born in the Colony); 26,300 were born in England, 21,000 in Ireland, 8,500 in Scotland, and 8,300 in Germany.

There were only 547 persons returned as suffering from sickness and accident, being at the low rate of only nine in every 2,000 persons.

The following are the rates of increase during the intervals between each Census:—

1861—1864	2·71 years	104·48 per cent.
1864—1868	4·17 „	62·53 „
1868—1871	3·50 „	20·22 „

The following information, as to the population of the Colony, is taken from the results of Census taken on the night of the 1st September 1871:—

Total population			120,104
	Minors.	Adults.	
Males	28,742	43,025	71,767
Females	27,042	21,295	48,337

Of the 21,295 female adults, all are married except 2,521; whilst of the 43,025 male adults, 21,534 are unmarried.

The people of Queensland are principally engaged either in pastoral, agricultural, or mining pursuits.

Population of pastoral districts	21,790
Population of settled districts	98,314

The principal towns are:—

	People.
Brisbane and suburbs, with	19,413
Rockhampton	5,497
Ipswich	5,092
Toowoomba	3,628
Maryborough	3,542
Warwick	2,228
Dalby	1,647
Clermont	1,222
Townsville	1,140

The largest groups of gold digging populations are at—

Gympie, with	5,010
Ravenswood	2,497
Neighbourhood of Rockhampton	1,263
Gilbert	1,146

HENRY SCOTT,
Registrar-General.

South Australia.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 13.

Governor Sir A. Musgrave, K.C.M.G., to The Earl of Carnarvon.

Government House, South Australia,
October 6, 1875.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the "Blue Book "and Statistical Register" for the year 1874. Those for the previous year, I ascertained, had been forwarded to your Lordship's Department direct from the local Government Printing Office, and as they did not require special comment I did not think it necessary to send separate copies.

2. It is with much satisfaction that I draw your Lordship's attention to the highly prosperous state of the province. Since 1872 the Colony has enjoyed three successive years of good fortune, and all the important industries are in a sound and expanding condition.

3. The population of the province is steadily increasing year by year, though not with remarkable rapidity, and is much more settled than it was five years ago, emigration to the neighbouring Colonies having sensibly decreased.

4. Large tracts of land are being secured in the interior of the province, indeed, near the centre of the continent in the neighbourhood of the Macdonnell Ranges, as well as in intermediate districts, by stockowners for pastoral purposes; and those who within the last few years have penetrated so far into what was once regarded as inaccessible country are sanguine of a successful issue to their enterprises.

5. I regret that the prospects of the Northern Territory are not so bright as those of the rest of the province. The only present source of wealth—the production of gold—has not yielded the results that were at first anticipated. There are undoubtedly large deposits of auriferous quartz in the country, but the requisite machinery is expensive to purchase, and difficult as well as expensive to transport, while labour is scarce and costly. A small stream of immigration consisting of Chinese and Indian coolies has commenced, but it is slow and uncertain. I fear, therefore, that it will be some years before any substantial return can be expected for the heavy expenditure incurred by the southern portion of the Colony for the support of what is in fact a separate dependency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. Musgrave.

The Right Hon. The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 14.

Governor ROBINSON, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Government House, 16th April 1875.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of Western Australia for 1874, with an interesting report to accompany it which has been drawn up by the Colonial Secretary at my request.

2. Mr. Barlee is better acquainted with Western Australia than any other person in the place, and therefore I hope your Lordship will accept his report in lieu of one from myself, especially as I had no connexion with the Colony during any portion of the period to which this Blue Book relates.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM C. F. ROBINSON.

The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 14.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
April 16, 1875.

SIR,

IN handing to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1874, I have the honour to offer the following remarks:—

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The net increase of the Colonial revenue over that of the previous year amounted to 13,500*l.*, and this in the absence of fresh taxation as well as making allowance for a reduction of upwards of 3,000*l.* for annual licenses for the year 1875, which was not brought to account in December as has hitherto been usual, but which will be credited in the year to which they refer.

The estimated revenue, exclusive of the Imperial grant in aid, was 100,680*l.*, and the actual revenue amounted to 134,225*l.*

The principal increases will be found under Customs and Land Revenue, but a steady progress may be noticed under various heads.

The net increase in expenditure over that of 1873 amounted to 28,996*l.*, and the excess of expenditure over the estimates was 28,845*l.*

The excess is thus accounted for:—

	£
Remittances to Crown agents for services principally to be paid in 1875 - -	13,000
Excess on works insufficiently provided by Loan Act, 1872 - - -	2,918
Payment of December accounts in that month in lieu of January 1875 -	12,000

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Hitherto the salaries and accounts for December in each year have not been paid till January in the succeeding year, but, in order that the precise expenditure of each year may in future appear, directions were issued to pay the December accounts prior to the close of the year, and hence the expenditure of 13 months is charged against 1874.

There was, however, a sum of 38,024*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.* to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December 1874, of which sum 23,567*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* has been appropriated for services of the current year. The available balance therefore to credit was 14,457*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*

Public Debt.

2. The authorised public debt of the Colony may be stated at 135,000*l.*, but 16,000*l.* of this amount has not yet been raised.

The amount of debt per head of population is 4*l.* 10*s.* 9½*d.*

In the several Australasian colonies the amount of indebtedness per head varies from 14*l.* to 45*l.*

Convict Expenditure.

3. The expenditure on convict account is gradually reducing. In 1870 for all civil services it exceeded 68,000*l.* During 1874 it amounted to 45,545*l.*

The immediate concentration of prisoners at Fremantle, and the withdrawal of departmental expenditure beyond that town, must necessitate considerable decrease in the future under this head.

The absence of parties of prisoners on the various roads in the Colony is already felt, and may be painfully experienced by those who travel much throughout the Colony.

Public Works.

4. The principal public works at present in course of construction are the telegraph line from King George's Sound to the border of the South Australian territory at Encla, and the railway from Geraldton to Northampton.

It is proposed to carry out the first work from current revenue at a cost of about 35,000*l.*, and the second is provided for by loan authorised in 1873. These completed, and the bar removed which has hitherto isolated us from the Australian colonies, there are fair grounds to hope for such an influx of capital as may prove them to be reproductive and stepping stones to other works of larger magnitude.

The question of harbour improvements at Fremantle was submitted for the consideration of Mr. W. W. Wardell, C.E., Inspector-General of Public Works for the Colony of Victoria, whose able report is now under consideration.

The great cost of undertaking such a work at Fremantle as would meet the requirements of the Colony will, it is feared for some time at all events, prevent the question being brought to a successful issue.

Legislation.

5. Among the 18 Acts passed by the Legislative Council during the year, that to simplify the title to, and the dealing with, estates in land is of most importance.

It does not come into operation till the 1st July of this year. It is questionable how far the considerable cost entailed in the working of the Act will be recouped, but if it has the effect of making the transfer of land from party to party as simple and easy as its advocates anticipate, the boon to the colonists will far outweigh the extra burden imposed upon them.

The only other Acts that require any mention are, that to necessitate the registration of all Coolies imported in connexion with the increasing pearl fishery and other services, and the Act to promote the efficiency of charitable institutions.

Both these Acts are for the protection of those who are really unable to protect themselves. In the one case, those who are imported from Java and elsewhere, somewhat in the position of assigned servants, can obtain redress in event of ill-usage or breach of contract, and in the other, children of dissolute or destitute parents will be respectably maintained and kept from the influence of those who, but for their depraved conduct, would naturally provide for them.

Population.

6. The increase of population over that of the previous year has been but trifling. A sickly season has considerably augmented the number of deaths. Such is the attraction of the Eastern Colonies that the number of arrivals has only exceeded the departures by 59, and the total increase arrived at by the returns furnished amounts to 448. Such is the scattered nature of the Colony, and the consequent difficulty of ensuring accurate returns, that I am inclined to believe the population would, in the event of taking a census, be considerably in excess of that given in the Blue Book.

Labour.

7. The want of labour is a serious drawback to the progress of the Colony, and is felt from end to end of it. Wages have risen almost cent. per cent. and though many are willing to pay, and indeed are compelled to comply with unreasonable demands, much work is left undone for want of hands. Monetary inducements were offered by the Legislative Council to encourage emigrants from England and the Australian colonies, and Her Majesty's Government was pleased to accede to recommendations for grants of land for emigrants, but as yet little has resulted. The exertions of an agent in London will probably secure in the course of a few months as many persons as the limited resources of the Colony to provide passages will admit, but the number about (400) will by no means meet the demand.

Such is the dearth of labour that endeavours are being made to introduce Chinese and other Coolies, and one firm alone has

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sent an agent to engage 100 to prevent the entire stoppage of their works.

It is difficult in the present state of the Colony, looking to the advantages offered elsewhere, and the attraction of more populous and flourishing settlements, to conceive, in the absence of any unexpected circumstances which might cause a sudden influx of population, how this urgent and pressing demand will be met.

Imports and Exports.

8. Notwithstanding the dearth of labour, the increase in the value both in imports and exports has been in excess of that of any previous year. The imports of 1874 over those of 1873 are 66,935*l.*, and the exports for the same period 163,620*l.* Those of 1873 were also greatly above previous years.

I am inclined to think that there has been some undue importations, and that the revenue of the current and succeeding year, in the absence of an influx of population, will not equal that of 1874, but I see every reason to hope that the value of the exports will still increase. If the timber companies are kept at work and mining operations go on, the increase under those items will be considerable, while the recent discoveries of fresh tracts of land will stimulate pastoral occupation and add largely to the export of wool.

The value of sandal wood exported during the past year was 70,572*l.*, and the pearl shells from the North-west Coast were estimated at a low figure at 62,000*l.* To this I may add that, while pearls to the value of 12,000*l.* were known to be exported, it is almost a certainty that further supplies to an equal extent were sent away by private individuals, and of which no accurate return can be arrived at.

The value of imports per head of population amounts to 13*l.* 17*s.* 11½*d.*, and that of exports to 16*l.* 7*s.* 2¾*d.*, the latter bears favourable comparison with the other Australian colonies, where the rate per head varies from 9*l.* to 24*l.*

Shipping.

9. The number of foreign vessels entered and cleared at the several ports of the Colony has varied but slightly from former years, but there is a considerable increase in the tonnage owned in the Colony. A few of the colonial vessels are dispatched to places outside the Colony, while the larger number are employed as coasters and in the pearling trade, which latter bids fair to be very remunerative.

Land.

10. The land sales have shown considerable activity during the last year, the estimate having been exceeded by 3,679*l.*, this may probably in some measure be attributed to the disposal of the scrip issued to the Western Australian Timber Company which, till its absorption affected the revenue, but this will not account for the large increase in the amount received from the rental of

land, upwards of 4,000*l.* in excess of the estimate, which it was thought was fixed at a high figure. The demand for pastoral land in Australia, the continued firm price of wool, and the rate at which sales of meat have been made, have caused an impetus in pastoral pursuits which will probably be maintained. Fresh land is eagerly sought for and as eagerly leased not alone by settlers of this, but also by those from the Eastern Colonies.

Forrest's Expedition.

11. It may be fitting here to allude to the exploring expedition conducted by Mr. John Forrest, who, in the face of much hardship, without the aid of camels, and with a small party of three Europeans and two aboriginal natives, crossed the continent from the head of the Murchison to the Prake Station of the South Australian Trans-Continental Telegraph Line, a feat not hitherto accomplished by any Australian explorer.

One of the results of this expedition has been the discovery of a fine belt of good country on the Murchison, the extent of which is as yet unknown, but which will not be long unexplored.

Agriculture.

12. The amount of acreage under crop is much less than in the previous year, and is undoubtedly caused by the dearth of labour. The returns of produce are more reliable than in previous years, inasmuch as they were not collected till February of this year, when a sufficient period had elapsed since the harvest to enable more accurate returns to be made. In previous seasons they were collected prior to the close of the year, and farmers filled up the "papers" rather as they hoped than as they subsequently realized.

No returns from the Williams or Kojonup districts have reached me.

Crime.

13. While there is nothing in the criminal returns requiring special mention, it may be observed that the summary convictions have increased, while those in the supreme court have decreased. The majority of the former are for the minor crimes of drunkenness and breach of ticket-of-leave regulations, and swell the number to an extent that would erroneously lead a stranger to draw an unfavourable comparison of the crime in the Colony with that of any similar number of people elsewhere.

There were two criminals executed, aboriginal natives, for murder coupled with cannabalism.

Post Office Department.

14. The one department which may, perhaps, be taken as the fairest test of the sound position of the Colony and its steady progress, is the department of the Post Office, with which is combined the telegraphic communication and the savings bank.

In 1874 the revenue for postages amounted to 5,889*l.*, and for telegraphs to 1,785*l.*

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In 1873 the respective amounts were 5,344*l.* and 1,048*l.*, and in 1872, 4,233*l.* from both sources.

The savings bank, instituted in 1863, had deposits at the end of that year to the extent of 2,487*l.*, and steadily increasing, with one exception, year by year, since that date had in its hands on 31st December 1874 19,404*l.* This department is well and economically worked, and its cost as compared with the benefits conferred on the colonists is small.

Education.

15. The Education Act in force in the colony is perhaps a little in advance of the times, but it has on the whole worked satisfactorily and affords to the colonists a reasonable and moderate means of instruction accessible to all and within the reach of all classes.

During the past year an average attendance of 2,772 children have been taught in 84 schools at a total cost of 5,567*l.*, or at a rate of 2*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* per head.

Schools in each district of the Colony are under the management of local boards elected by the people, and the general education system is conducted by a central board located in Perth, appointed by and responsible to the Governor.

North-west Coast.

16. The increasing attention that is attracted to the settlements on and the resources of the North-west Coast demand some remark in any general report on the Colony.

Experience has proved that the country is well adapted for large and small stock, that, notwithstanding the tropical heat, wool has not deteriorated, while horses, cattle, and sheep thrive as well as in other and more temperate parts of the Colony.

That mineral wealth in various forms exists has been undoubtedly demonstrated, and the banks of large and valuable pearl shells have already been a source of wealth to persons in and out of the Colony.

At certain seasons of the year numbers of Europeans with gangs of Coolies assemble for the fishery, they are subject to little or no supervision or control, and it is satisfactory to remark that irregularities have not been of frequent occurrence or of a grave character.

Many instances of misconduct have probably occurred which have not been brought to light, but I question if it would be possible altogether to conceal any offence of a grave character.

One paid magistrate with half a dozen policemen can not exercise close supervision over such an extent of seaboard as ranges between Sharks Bay and Camden Harbour.

A small cutter has, during the past season, been cruising about the coast, but it is obvious that the increasing importance of its industries will shortly demand, in the interest of all persons con-

cerned, a larger staff of officers with extended powers both to repress crime, prevent smuggling, and generally to administer public affairs of a large and rapidly increasing district.

Search for Gold.

17. I regret to record that the party of prospectors from the Colony of Victoria failed to discover any valuable mineral deposits during the time they were employed. In many parts of the Colony minute specks of gold were found, but in no case a quantity sufficient to pay working expenses.

One sample of quartz, from a very promising reef, realised a handsome return when tested at the Sydney Mint, but a crushing of five tons from the same reef failed to sustain the test.

A quartz crushing apparatus was imported and erected at Fremantle with a view to test samples of the numerous reefs with which the Colony is studded, but the colonists have failed to make use of it, and appear very apathetic on the subject.

One reef in the vicinity of King George's Sound, not discovered by the paid prospectors but by a private gentleman, has yielded a sufficient return to justify the formation of a company and the inportation of machinery; the result of the venture is watched with much interest, as on its success or otherwise much will probably depend.

Sericulture.

18. The only other industry to which I will briefly refer is that of sericulture.

For some few years past the mulberry tree has been cultivated under a belief that the climate and soil of the colony were peculiarly adapted for it. Several thousand trees have been distributed throughout the colony and they thrive in all parts.

Specimens of silk and grain have been forwarded to England, and favourable reports received.

A small plantation of 10 or 12 acres is now coming into bearing and thus the industry will be fairly tested, and I am inclined to think will be fully as successful here as it has proved to be in New South Wales and other parts of Australia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRED. P. BARLEE.

His Excellency Governor Robinson, C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

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No. 15.

Governor WELD, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Hobart Town,
MY LORD, July 29, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying copies of the statistics of Tasmania for the year 1874. Mr. Nowell's able report leaves room but for few observations on my part.

2. The conference of the Government statisticians of the Australian Colonies, which took place in this town in January last, will, I concur with Mr. Nowell in believing, bear fruit in securing greater uniformity of plan, and consequently enhance the value of future compilations for comparative purposes.

3. The least satisfactory portion of the returns is that relating to population, which, when births are included, may be said to be stationary, whilst the returns show an absolute decrease of the adult population of 1,449. I trust that the general progress of the Colony and consequent increasing rate of wages may turn back the tide of immigration to these shores within the next few years.

4. I have great pleasure in asking your Lordships' attention to the commercial state of the Colony; the very large increase under the head of exports is especially worthy of note.

5. On the whole it may reasonably be assumed that the continued development of the mineral resources of the Colony, the very successful efforts made by many of the colonists in breeding superior stock, and, I may hope also, some improvement in agricultural operations, afford just grounds for the belief which seems generally to prevail, that Tasmania is emerging gradually from the depression which has for some years retarded her progress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. A. WELD,
Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

To the Honourable the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Legislative Council Office, Hobart Town,
16th July 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to place in your hands the statistics of the Colony for the past year, 1874.

Before proceeding to the consideration of the matters contained in the returns which follow this report, I must offer a few observations in regard to the subjects which occupied the attention of the Government statisticians of the Australasian Colonies at their meeting in Hobart Town in January last. It is to be regretted that those of Queensland, New Zealand, and Western Australia could not be present on that occasion, and that more time could not have been given to the consideration of the many subjects embraced in the annual statistics; but a large amount of important work was done, and there is good reason to hope that the labours of the conference will very materially tend to promote such uniformity as is possible in the compilation of the statistics of the whole group of colonies, and to make them more valuable for comparative purposes. The practice, introduced I believe by Sir Hercules Robinson, and now adopted by the government of Victoria, of publishing annually in one view returns of the principal facts relating to the Australasian Colonies, must also have considerable influence in the same direction.

The conclusions at which the conference arrived were put into the form of certain resolutions, to be submitted as their recommendations to their several governments, some of these recommendations will require legislative action if they are to be carried into effect; but where the present powers of the government statisticians are not exceeded, it was resolved that the alterations should be made in regard to the returns for the current year, 1875. This will necessitate the reconsideration and remodelling of a considerable part of the statistics in most of the Colonies, and will be a matter of great labour and difficulty. It was agreed to regard certain things as compulsory, as far as they can be supplied; and in respect to others, the conference contented itself with recording its opinion that it was desirable that they should be furnished, if possible.

In making the suggestion that the census of every Colony should be taken on the same day and tabulated on the same plan as that of the United Kingdom, the conference wished to urge the principle that at least every ten years all the different census should synchronise. Where ten years was considered too long an interval, a quinquennial census might be taken in the middle of the period, without prejudice to the general arrangement.

The law has always made the furnishing of information for the purposes of the census compulsory, and provided for the punishing of any default; and it seemed to the conference that there was no reason why the same principle should not be applied generally to all statistical inquiries for State purposes, and in this view they were strengthened by recent legislation in Victoria.

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It is a curious coincidence that the same suggestion, supported by the same reason, was made independently by the collector of agricultural statistics at New Norfolk. I would request special attention to the following words used by him :—" It is true there " are only a few who refused to give the information, but their " example is being followed more every year, affecting the truth- " fulness of the return. Some ignorant producers have a sort of " faint belief, which it is difficult to dispel, that the return is in " some way connected with taxation."

For the purpose of correcting the estimates of population, it was recommended that returns of immigration and emigration should be exchanged by the various Customs departments, since in every country there are always some outgoing passengers whose names and numbers are recorded at the ports of destination, but not at the ports of departure.

Another of the resolutions agreed to aimed at a general plan of classifying articles in the Customs returns, and items in the Treasury accounts.

Taxation was another subject which came under review. To attempt to compare the total taxation in different countries is now simply hopeless, as far as the general statistics are concerned, since, in the first place, the burdens as between the State and local bodies are not uniformly apportioned; and, secondly, there has hitherto been no common understanding as to what taxation shall include. It was therefore considered necessary that this should be determined, and that returns should be given of the local as well as of the State taxes, so that the whole might be presented in one view. It was also laid down as a principle that in statistical returns of finance, moneys raised by loan should be excluded from the revenue; and that the expenditure account, while excluding disbursements from funds so raised, should include the interest and repayment of loans; and it was resolved that, as in the case of taxation, separate and collective returns should be given of the revenue and expenditure both of the general government and of the local bodies.

These were the most important subjects dealt with at the conference.

I believe that great good will result from this meeting of the statisticians of the Australasian Colonies. It will promote harmony of action and uniformity of system, and if similar meetings were held from time to time, much valuable information could be mutually communicated, and anomalies could be discussed and, possibly, removed. In his prefatory remarks to the " Statistical " Abstract for the principal Foreign Countries," published in 1874, Mr. Valpy, of the English Board of Trade, alluded to the difficulty of making comparisons between the statistics of different countries; and every one who has attempted to make such comparisons in regard to these Colonies must have had the same experience. " Unfortunately," he says, " the statistics of many " countries cannot now be compared, owing to differences in dates " and in the classification of details; but the making known the

"want of greater assimilation in the statistical tables of different "countries is a necessary step towards obtaining so important an "element in comparative statistics;" and he proceeds to give instances of variations in regard to the census, to accounts of revenue and expenditure, to railways, and to returns of imports and exports. All these will be shortly remedied, as far as this group of Colonies is concerned, if the suggestions of the conference be carried into effect.

It is the aim of all inductive philosophy, from individual facts to discover general laws, principles, or tendencies. The generalisations of statistics are of great value in political economy, in physiology and hygiene, and in social science—in short, in all that concerns the welfare of man; and it is therefore a matter of gratulation that we have been enabled in some degree, however humble, to assist in devising means by which they may be more readily effected, and thus to co-operate with the many able men who are diligently studying comparative statistics in the Old World. And when we look at the position which the Australasian Colonies, with their immense extent of territory, must be destined ultimately to attain, the importance to the historian and scientist of the future, of securing uniformity as between themselves and the rest of the civilised world, in the records of their national life, can hardly be over-estimated.

Having made these prefatory remarks, which the nature of the case seemed to require, I now address myself to the main subject of this report.

I.—*Population.*

The population on 31st December 1874 is estimated to have been 104,176; the number of males being 55,117, of females, 49,059. At the end of the previous year it was calculated to be 104,217; so that the number was smaller in 1874 than in 1873 by 41.

By excess of births over deaths, there was an increase of 579 males and 829 females, or 1,408 persons; while by excess of emigration over immigration, there was a decrease of 1,449 persons of both sexes. In the previous year the increase by excess of births was 1,544, and the decrease by excess of emigration only 587; so that in both respects the year 1874 contrasts very unfavourably.

The number of persons who arrived in the Colony during that year was 6,265; 5,761 or 91·96 per cent. from Victoria, 419 or 6·69 per cent. from New South Wales, 56 from New Zealand, 15 from South Australia, 7 from the United Kingdom, and the same number from the Mauritius. The number of assisted or "bounty" immigrants introduced during the year was only 18, against 28 in the previous year.

The number who left the Colony, as stated in the returns, was 7,714; 6,631 or 85·96 per cent. for Victoria, 367 or 4·76 per cent. for New South Wales, 660 or 8·56 per cent. for New Zealand, 15 for South Australia, 8 for Queensland, 26 for Bird

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Island, and 7 for the United Kingdom. But the real numbers of emigrants must have been much greater than this; for there is always a considerable proportion of outward-bound passengers whose numbers are not known until the lists are made up after leaving the port. For example; in 1873, according to our returns, 6,491 persons left Tasmania for Victoria, while in the statistics of Victoria, it is stated that 7,108 arrived in Victoria from Tasmania, —a difference of 617. In a similar way, the number of passengers from Victoria to Tasmania, appears as 3,101 and 5,824 in the records of those Colonies respectively,—a difference of 2,723. In order to correct these discrepancies it is necessary that the numbers should be recorded as delivered at the ports of *arrival*, not at the ports of *departure;* and with that view, it was proposed by the conference of government statisticians that lists of passengers should be periodically exchanged between the Customs departments of the various Colonies.

Next to Victoria, New Zealand attracted the greatest number of our emigrants; about six times as many having proceeded thither as in the previous year.

II.—*Trade, Commerce, and Navigation.*

The total declared value of the imports in 1874 was 1,257,785*l.*, being greater by 150,618*l.*, than in 1873. It has not been so large since 1858, when it reached 1,328,612*l.* The rate per head was 12*l.* 1*s.* 5½*d.* against 10*l.* 12*s.* 5½*d.* in 1873.

The increases occurred almost entirely in the trade with the United Kingdom, Victoria, and New South Wales; that with New Zealand being very small in absolute amount, although the increase from 1,505*l.* to 3,180*l.*, being rather more than 100 per cent., was relatively large.

On the trade with the following colonies there were decreases to the extent mentioned:—

Queensland, from 17,647*l.* to 11,498*l.*: difference 6,149*l.*
South Australia, from 4,215*l.* to 775*l.*: difference 3,440*l.*
Mauritius, from 110,060*l.* to 82,365*l.*: difference 27,695*l.*

The principal increases in the imports were on the following articles:—

	£		£
Carpets - -	7,612	Manure - -	2,378
Drapery - -	66,100	Musical instruments -	4,026
Earthen and glassware	3,856	Saddlery and leather-ware - -	5,534
Hides and skins -	3,799	Spirits - -	3,537
Ironmongery and hard-ware - -	11,517	Wine - -	1,225
Jewellery - -	5,913	Stationery and printed books - -	10,347
Sheep - -	6,837	Railway material -	58,879
Cattle - -	2,315	*Ad valorem* goods -	11,214
Mills and machinery -	10,831		
Malt liquors - -	4,993		

On the other hand these showed a decrement, besides others of less amounts:—

	£		£
Apparel - -	4,463	Malt - - -	3,514
Coin - - -	33,994	Sugar and molasses -	3,154
Corn sacks - -	7,138	Tea - - -	18,630
Wheat - -	4,040	Tobacco and cigars -	7,832
Woodware - -	3,725	Woolpacks - -	1,870

In my report for 1868, I gave a statement of the quantities of spirits, tea, sugar, and tobacco, taken out of bond for home consumption, from 1858 to 1868 inclusively. In order that we may see what effect the improved condition of the Colony has had upon the use of these articles, I subjoin a continuation of the same statement up to the year 1874. To the articles mentioned, cocoa, chocolate, coffee, chicory, malt liquors, wine, tobacco, and cigars have been added.

Years.	Spirits.	Wine.	Malt Liquors.	Tea.	Sugar.	Cocoa and Chocolate.	Coffee and Chicory.	Tobacco and Cigars.
	Galls.	Galls.	Galls.	Lbs.	Cwts.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
1869 -	69,714	22,218	58,388	544,123	57,790	21,148	216,237	162,566
1870 -	67,762	21,878	31,986	533,036	58,791	19,096	155,460	165,741
1871 -	60,788	15,942	41,804	577,773	74,441	20,295	160,632	154,117
Mean -	66,088	20,013	44,059	551,644	63,674	20,180	177,443	160,808
1872 -	60,752	21,039	28,690	546,382	69,719	20,185	131,658	155,501
1873 -	66,802	22,728	35,306	735,666	83,679	18,850	145,287	165,447
1874 -	75,152	20,899	54,972	584,609	86,522	29,559	133,568	161,242
Mean -	67,569	21,555	39,656	622,219	79,973	22,865	136,838	160,730

The quantity of spirits consumed was never so small in all the period from 1858 to 1874 as it was in 1872. Thence however it became greatly increased, making the mean for the last three years somewhat greater than for the first three. The consumption of wine did not vary much, the additional quantity being no more than the increase of population would lead us to expect. In malt liquors there is a consderable decrease, the imported article being, no doubt, superseded to a considerable extent by the home-brewed. Tea shows a considerable increase, as also do sugar and cocoa and chocolate. In coffee and chicory, on the contrary, there is a great falling off. Tobacco and cigars were nearly the same in quantity in both periods, so that the comsumption per head was less in the latter than in the former period.

The total declared value of the exports was 925,325*l.*, being greater than in 1873 by 31,769*l.*; the amount per head of population being 8*l.* 17*s.* 7¾*d.*, against 8*l.* 2*s.* 9½*d.* in the previous year. The value has not been so large since 1864.

The shipments to the United Kingdom were increased by 41,498*l.*; to New Zealand, by 26,870*l.*; and to New South

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Wales, by 2,123*l.* But the outward trade with Victoria declined to the extent of 30,394*l.*; with Queensland, to the extent of 3,014*l.*; with South Australia, to the extent of 1,034*l.* On the exports to New Caledonia also, there was a falling off of 1,775*l.*; and those to Batavia and New Guinea, which in 1873 were respectively 945*l.* and 960*l.*, ceased altogether in the past year.

A comparison of the total values of the principal articles of export in 1873 and 1874 shows the following variations :—

Articles.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£
Bark	—	8,362
Butter and cheese	4,528	—
Flour	—	3,283
Fruit and jam	21,746	—
Gold	2,502	—
Grain:—Wheat	6,313	—
Oats	—	25,152
Barley	—	547
Hides, and skins, and leather	—	4,239
Hops	1,269	—
Live stock:—Horses	1,848	—
Sheep	5,328	—
Oatmeal	1,193	—
Oil, sperm and black	—	24,710
Timber	12,176	—
Vegetables	—	3,086
Wool	36,645	—

The export of jam, which amounted to 2,648,012 lbs., had an increase in quantity of 384,746 lbs.; and that of green fruit was larger by 54,176 bushels than in 1873. After wool, fruit, green and preserved, is now our chief commodity of exchange.

Malt liquors, which are not included in the above articles, were more than doubled in quantity in 1874, the exports for the last three years having been 9,369, 10,399, and 23,011 galls., respectively. Stone also had an increase, the quantities in the last four years having been 916, 455, 966, and 1,157 tons.

Of tin ore the first export was of four tons in 1873. It was increased to 142 tons in 1874. The production of tin, both in its native and manufactured condition, will be largely augmented during the present year, and this metal ought to become, if we may judge from the reports of discoveries hitherto made in several parts of the Colony, one of our most abundant and profitable articles of commerce.

A small parcel of 27½ tons of iron ore was also sent to the United Kingdom in 1874. The present year will, I presume, see the practicability of producing metallic iron from the ores which are so copiously distributed through the island, put to the test on an adequate scale.

During the past year there entered the ports 607 vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 119,706. As compared with the previous year, there was an increase in the tonnage of 1,353, but a decrease

in the number of 54. The tonnage of ships which arrived with cargoes was greater by 3,404; but there was a decrease of 2,051 in that of vessels which entered in ballast. Three foreign vessels, of 1,084 tons entered, against seven of 2,105 tons in 1873.

The vessels which cleared outwards in 1874 numbered 620, measuring 119,801 tons. The tonnage, as compared with 1873, was slightly in favour of 1874, but the vessels were 61 fewer. The foreign vessels leaving for the southern whale fisheries were only three, of 1,084 tons, whereas in 1873 they were seven, with 2,028 tons; and the British vessels bound for the same destination were only nine, with 2,136 tons, against 17, with 4,318 tons, in the previous year.

As regards the different ports and sub-ports, it appears that there were increases in the tonnage inwards,—at Hobart Town, of 6,505; at Stanley, of 1,277; at Wynyard, of 201: decreases,—at Launceston, of 4,738; at Leith, of 303; at Torquay, of 1,589. On the tonnage outwards there were the following increases:—At Hobart Town, 4,850; at Stanley 255; at Wynyard, 311: decreases:—At Launceston, 3,939; at Leith, 388; at Torquay, 1,047.

The nationality of the shipping in the last two years was—

Years.	Entered.						Cleared.					
	United Kingdom.		British (Colonial).		Foreign.		United Kingdom.		British (Colonial).		Foreign.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1873	21	9918	631	105721	9	2714	21	9918	631	105721	9	2714
1874	19	9647	585	108975	3	1084	18	9001	599	109716	3	1084

Adding together the vessels entered and cleared, it appears that in the last two years there were engaged in our transmarine trade—

Years.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1873	1,342	238,112
1874	1,227	239,507

making a difference 1,395 tons in favour of the last year.

I find that the tonnage, both ways, was not so large in any year, with the exception of 1864, since 1859.

The number and tonnage of vessels on the register at the beginning and end of the year were—

	Vessels.	Tons.
At beginning of year (as corrected) -	185	18,029
At end of year - - -	180	17,744

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showing a decrease of five vessels, measuring 285 tons. Twelve vessels, of 621 tons, were wrecked or otherwise lost, and 13, of 832 tons, were struck off the register from other causes; while 19 new vessels, of 770 tons, were added, and an accession of one of 398 tons was gained by re-registry after purchase, or by transfer from other ports.

Acting on a suggestion made to me, I have added this year a return of vessels built and sold out of the Colony, from which it appears that nine vessels of 449 tons, valued at 10,950*l.*, were so sold during 1874. The increased activity which now prevails in the ship-building trade gives special interest to the matter.

The whale fisheries employed only 16 vessels in 1874, instead 18, as in the previous year. These brought into port 342 tuns of sperm oil, valued at 30,780*l.*; whereas in 1873, 558 tuns of sperm and 12½ tuns of black oil, valued at 44,000*l.*, were returned as the produce.

The market prices at Hobart Town generally did not vary much in 1874 from the rates which obtained in 1873. Butter was a little lower; wheat fell from an average of 5*s.* 9*d.* to 5*s.* 3*d.*; barley rose from from 4*s.* 9*d.* to 5*s.* 6*d.*; oats were about 1*s.* 6*d.* per bushel higher; hay, 2*l.* 15*s.* higher; malt liquors were also dearer; also brandy and whisky, while rum was cheaper; timber was dearer, in consequence of the increased demand for exportation. The price of vegetables was also higher, but especially that of onions, which having been from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 10*s.* in 1873, in 1874 was from 10*l.* to 20*l.**

The Government contract prices were higher as regards pearl barley, brandy, butcher's meat, flour, oatmeal, port wine; while the price of fresh butter, coffee, currants, black oil, raisins, rice, sago, soap (yellow), sugar (ration), tea, tobacco, and vinegar was lower.

Trades and manufactories were returned to the number of 3,391, against 3,386 in 1873. The following are the increases:—Auctioneers, 4; bone dust mill, 1; boot and shoe makers, 4; bricklayers, 14; cheese-makers, 19; coach-makers, 3; cooper, 1; corn and ship chandlers, 2; engineers, 6; general dealers, 26; mill, hydraulic, 1; painters and glaziers, 6; plasterers, 3; saddle and harness-maker, 1; sawmills, 4; shipwrights and boat builders, 31; tailor, 1; tin smelting works, 1; watchmaker, 1; woollen manufactory, 1; wool-stapler, 1. Thus the industries in which the principal advances were made were—Building, cheese-making or rather dairy farming, since the exposts of both butter and cheese were greatly in excess of those of the previous three years); that useful department of trade pursued by the "general dealer" (though the increase in this direction is more than balanced by the loss of 51 grocers; and shipbuilding, which has sprung into vigorous life on the north-western coast. On the following in-

* The mean of the rates given by the collectors of agricultural statistics, was, however, lower in 1875 than in 1874.

dustries there were decreases :—agricultural implement makers, 5 ; bakers, 2 ; blacksmiths, 6 ; breweries, 2 ; brickmakers, 3 ; butchers, 3 ; cabinetmakers and joiners, 7 ; chemists and druggists, 3 ; cider makers, 5 ; dyer, 1 ; fellmongers, 2 ; foundries, iron and brass, 2 ; furriers, 2 ; gardeners, 2 ; grocers, 51 ; hat and cap manufactory, 1 ; ironmongers, 6 ; iron smelting works, 1 (at George Town) ; maltster, 1 ; mills, flour, 10 ; millwright, 1 ; pastry cooks and confectioners, 3 ; plasterers, 3 ; pottery, 1 ; publican, 1 ; sailmaker 1 ; soap-boiler, 1 : stonemason, 1 ; tanners, 9 ; tinworkers, 2 ; turners, 7 ; wheelwrights, 7.

The irregularities in the labour market make it difficult to institute a close comparison between the rates prevailing in one year and another ; but taking the average of all the districts, it appears that in 1874 the wages of the following trades and other callings were higher than in 1873 :—Carpenters, engineers, masons, painters, plumbers, saddlers, tanners, wheelwrights, day labourers, seamen, mowers (per acre), shepherds, shearers, and some descriptions of domestic servants ; while in other cases, the rates were either stationary or lower. The Main Line Railway works and the active emigration to Victoria and New Zealand were doubtless the principal cause of the rise, by diminishing the supply.

For many years only two branches of mining (gold and coal) in Tasmania were of sufficient importance to have a place assigned to them in the statistics. During the past year, however, tin, iron, and slate attracted much attention, and a collective return of the quantities of these and other minerals produced has been compiled. Gold mining is dealt with in a separate return, which for obvious reasons has been transferred from the place it occupied in the previous year, under the head of "Finance," as being the representative of value, to a station immediately preceding the return of other minerals.

Gold mining operations were carried on in 1874 at only two places, Mathinna, or Black Boy, and Nine Mile Springs, those at the Hellyer River having been discontinued. There was thus a reduction of 75 in the average number of persons employed in alluvial mining. But in regard to quartz mining there was an increase of 30 persons. The value of mining plant was about the same. The yield of gold in 1874 was—alluvial, 850 ozs., or 680 less than in 1873 ; quartz, 3,800 ozs. 14 dwts., or 669 ozs. 14 dwts. more. The quantity of quartz crushed was 3,452½ tons, or 731½ tons less. The average yield per ton of stone crushed was 1 oz. 5 dwts. 8½ grs., a parcel of 1,147 tons at Nine Mile Springs having produced 1 oz. 15 dwts. 17 grs. to the tons, and since the beginning of the current year a crushing of 235 tons is reported in the newspapers to have given an average of 2 ozs. 5 dwts. 22½ grs. The total value of the gold obtained, as far as could be ascertained by the commissioner, was 18,491*l.*, or 101*l.* more than in 1873. The Customs returns show an increase in the export of 2,502*l.* in the value, and of 439 in the number of ozs. The average value of gold per oz. in 1874 was—alluvial 3*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, or 1*s.* higher

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than in 1873; quartz, also 3*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, with no variation. The gold from Nine Mile Springs is set down as averaging 4*l.* per oz.

The gold commissioner's reports are, as usual, appended to the volume. I am sorry to observe that he anticipates increased difficulty in obtaining complete information in regard to gold mining for the present year. The continual changes of which he complains, and the utter instability of almost all institutions and departments in this Colony, make the duty of dealing with its statistics most harassing and discouraging.

The quantity of coal returned as raised in 1874 was 871 tons less than in 1873. There was an increase of 1,140 tons at Tasman's Peninsula, and of 22 tons at New Town, but this was more than counterbalanced by the decreases at the other places.

Of iron ore 1,400 tons are stated to have been raised in the year; 1,000 at Middle Arm, West Tamar, and 400 at Lewisham Sorell; and, as already stated, 27½ tons were exported. I have no official information as to the quantity of iron smelted in the year. The Tasmanian Charcoal Iron Company are understood to be making preparations for starting the manufacture of iron on a large scale; and the question whether it can be profitably pursued in this Colony will, therefore, in due time receive a practical solution.

Sanguine expectations were formed at one time of the slate which abounds in large quantities at the Piper's River; but little seems to have been done with it. The quantity raised in the year is given as 250,000 slates, and 94 tons of slates and slabs appear among the exports to Victoria. I am sorry to observe in the public papers a notice of a meeting for dissolving the Bangor Slate Company. The cause of collapse I take to be that which for many years past has proved the ruin of one promising undertaking after another—want of sufficient capital at starting. Experience has unmistakably shown that to start any company without providing in the first instance means for raising ample funds to meet all contingencies, is, in the majority of cases, simply to court certain failure. A company cramped at every step by want of funds never can succeed, and its downfall is not merely a loss to its own shareholders, but a serious injury to the whole community, by discouraging all associated enterprise, and by wasting capital that might, under other circumstances, have been permanently and profitably employed.

The mineral which occupied the greatest share of attention in the course of the past year is tin. As to the character of the deposits at Mount Bischoff there seems to be no question. The ore is acknowledged to be remarkable for richness, and for the quantities in which it is found, and it is distributed over a wide extent of country. The supply is therefore practically unlimited. In consequence of the great difficulties of carriage to the port of Launceston, the progress of tin mining has been slow; and only 142 tons of ore were exported in 1874. The ore is now smelted at Launceston, and the present year ought to witness the ship-

ment of a much larger quantity of the smelted metal. The tin-bearing country in the north-east corner of the island is, I am informed, not so rich in the metal as that in the vicinity of Mount Bischoff, but the facilities of access and of transport should, if advantage be taken of them, enable the mines to be developed much more rapidly. The report of the nearest stipendiary magistrate as to the tin mines of Mount Bischoff is appended at the end of the volume.

The discovery made since the beginning of the present year, of a large load of bismuth, is one of the most important that has yet taken place. If the lode should prove a permanent one, it must become a source of considerable wealth to the Colony.

III.—*Finance, &c.*

I subjoin, as in former years, a statement of the public revenue and expenditure for 1873 and 1874, furnished at my request by the Assistant Colonial Treasurer:—

CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC REVENUE,* exclusive of Debentures, and Expenditure, exclusive of Disbursements under Loans Act.

	1873.			1874.		
REVENUE.	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs and bonding rents	169,762	19	1	181,301	17	5
Inland revenue	70,567	5	7	78,735	19	0
Territorial revenue	37,304	7	10	41,338	10	10
Other receipts	43,345	10	6	21,548	12	6
Estimated amount outstanding	—			5,000	0	0
	320,980	3	0	327,924	19	9
EXPENDITURE.						
Ordinary expenditure	290,882	7	9	306,115	12	4
Reserves under Waste Lands Act	8,763	11	7	10,161	18	8
Estimated expenditure outstanding	—			2,000	0	0
	299,645	19	4	318,277	11	0

WM. H. WINDSOR,
Assistant Colonial Treasurer.

Colonial Treasury, June 17, 1875.

The total consolidated revenue shows an increase upon that of 1873 of 2·16 per cent.; and on the several items there were the following centesimal increases:—On customs, &c., 6·80; on inland revenue, 11·58; on land revenue, 10·81. The decrease on

* The general revenue and land fund were consolidated on the 1st January 1874 under Act 37 Vict. No. 18. For 1873 the general and land revenues, though kept separate in the public accounts, are here combined.

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"other receipts" was on moneys received on account of previous years.

The revenue derived from the customs in 1874 was in the proportion of 55 · 13 per cent. of the total consolidated revenue.

The proportion of revenue derived from taxation, on the principles affirmed at the Statistical Conference, was 65 · 64 per cent.* The amount of taxation paid to the General Government per head of population was 2*l.* 1*s.* 3¾*d.*

The expenditure on account of the Imperial Government is stated to have been 14,485*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, the amount in 1873 having been 36,567*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*

During 1874 the banks still bought mercantile bills on London, as in 1873, at a discount of ¼ to ½ per cent., but lowered the rate of exchange on bills on London, issued by themselves, which had been at from ¾ to 1 per cent. premium in 1873, to ½ to par in 1874. The rates of exchange with the Australasian Colonies remained unaltered.

The rates of discount in 1874 were—

		Per cent.
January to September	95 days and under	5
	185 „	6
	Over 185 days	8
October to December	95 days and under	6
	125 „	7
	Over 125 days	8

In 1873 they were—

65 days and under	6
95 „	7
125 „	8
To August 6, over 125 days	10
From August 6, over 125 days	9

The interest on fixed deposits in the two years was—

	1873. Per cent.	1874. Per cent.
For 3 months	2	3
For 6 months	3	4
For 12 months	—	5

The lower rate of discount and longer time show that money was more plentiful during the past year, while the higher rate of interest on deposits is, I understand, to be accounted for by the fact that money was wanted by one of the English banks for employment out of the Colony; and an analysis of the next return will show that this could be no other than the Bank of Australasia.

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* The sum raised by taxation being 215,233*l.* out of a total of 327,925*l.*

The quarterly totals of the most important figures in the banking return for 1874 were as follows:—

	Assets.			Liabilities.	
	Specie and Bullion.	Balances due from other Banks.	Debts due to Banks.	Notes in Circulation.	Deposits.
	£	£	£	£	£
1st quarter - -	253,696	86,393	1,040,983	111,856	967,852
2nd quarter - -	248,816	94,708	1,105,723	116,848	1,059,737
3rd quarter - -	240,315	50,331	1,165,739	109,032	1,075,092
4th quarter - -	239,134	43,864	1,197,752	107,487	1,106,101
Mean - -	245,490	68,824	1,127,549	111,306	1,052,195

For 1873 they were—

1st quarter - -	229,026	77,656	906,147	91,759	827,737
2nd quarter - -	257,135	80,038	908,216	97,816	873,395
3rd quarter - -	258,825	63,015	922,208	96,892	870,180
4th quarter - -	251,134	35,171	986,187	101,851	858,784
Mean - -	249,030	63,970	930,689	97,079	857,524

While the specie and bullion declined by 3,540*l.*, or 1·42 per cent., the balances due increased by 4,854*l.*, or 7·59 per cent., the debts due to the banks by 196,860*l.*, or 21·15 per cent., the notes in circulation by 14,227, or 14·62 per cent., and the deposits by 194,671*l.*, or 22·70 per cent. The small decrease in the specie as compared with the large extension of the general business is quite anomalous, but a comparison of the business of the two English banks show how it occurred. It will be sufficient for this purpose to take the December quarter, there being no material difference in the four quarters—

	Assets.		Liabilities.	
	Specie, &c.	Debts due to Banks.	Notes.	Deposits.
	£	£	£	£
Bank of Australasia -	72,005	25,792	10,339	184,311
Union Bank of Australia	74,525	258,591	23,975	295,219

The small amount of debts due and of notes in circulation in the former case, as compared with the amount of deposits, shows that the business of the bank was principally confined to receiving deposits; and the increased rate of interest offered is consistent only with the supposition before mentioned—that money was sent out of the Colony to some other country where it could be turned to greater profit.

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The returns of the savings banks for the years 1873 and 1874 give the following results:—

Year.	Average Assets.	Average Liabilities.		Total Deposits during Year.	Total Repayments during Year.
	In Mortgages and Debentures.	Deposits.	Amount to Credit of Profit and Loss.		
	£	£	£	£	£
1873	222,814	244,927	1,027	140,906	115,409
1874	249,058	270,816	1,503	158,351	141,191

The increases per cent. in the latter year were—

On investments - - - -	11·78
On amount at credit of depositors - -	10·57
On profit and loss - - -	46·35
On deposits during year - - -	12·38
On repayments during year - -	22·40

The increase on profit and loss was very large, and greater than that in the preceding year, 1873, which was 42·05 per cent. The increase on deposits during the year was, however, less than that in 1873, which was 16·39 per cent. The large increase on repayments, as compared with that for 1873 (5·79 per cent.), is easily accounted for in connexion with the increase of deposits in the ordinary banks, by the fact that the latter offered a higher rate of interest for moneys lodged for 12 months, and thus must have caused the withdrawal of considerable sums from the savings banks. In 1874 on the average amount on mortgage there was a decrease of 11,144*l.*, while on the sums invested in debentures and Treasury bills there was an increase of 37,388*l.*

The number of accounts open on 31st August, in 1873 and 1874 respectively, was:—

Years.	Above 100*l.*	50*l.* to 100*l.*	10*l.* to 50*l.*	Under 10*l.*	Total.
1873	886	804	2,193	5,373	9,256
1874	930	939	2,461	5,812	10,142

The increase per cent. being:—

Above 100*l.* - - - -	4·97
50*l.* to 100*l.* - - - -	16.79
10*l.* to 50*l.* - - - -	12·22
Under 10*l.* - - - -	8·17

And on the total, 9·57 per cent. The number of new accounts opened during the year ended 31st August was at the rate of 22·56 per cent. above that of the preceding year. The number of accounts closed exceeded the corresponding number in that year by 10·77 per cent.

The number and amount of post office money orders issued and paid in the last two years was :—

Years.	Issued.		Paid.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
1873	6,572	24,193	5,534	21,108
1874	7,131	27,063	5,908	22,667

The increases per cent. being:—

On the number	Issued - - -	8·51
	Paid - - -	11·86
On the amount	Issued - - -	6·76
	Paid - - -	7·39

The public debt of the Colony on 31st December 1874 was 1,476,700*l.*, of which 52,000*l.* consisted of Treasury bills redeemable in 1875, and the remainder of debentures, redeemable partly in Hobart Town and partly in London, at various dates, from 1875 to 1902. There were also debentures to the amount of 72,300*l.* authorised but not issued. The actual indebtedness per head of estimated population was 14*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, being $\frac{3}{4}d.$ less than in 1873.

IV.—*Establishment maintained, &c. by Government.*

The return relating to the Post Office shows that there were received in 1874:—

Letters - - - -	1,204,062
Packets - - - -	50,060
Newspapers - - - -	727,853

and that there were despatched,—

Letters - - - -	1,282,854
Packets - - - -	34,617
Newspapers - - - -	990,588

The rates of increase, and number per head of population, were as follows :—

	Received.			Despatched.		
	Letters.	Packets.	News-papers.	Letters.	Packets.	News-papers.
Rates of increase in 1874 -	12·28	36·26	8·87	9·53	11·91	0·45
Number per head in 1874 -	11·56	0·48	6·99	12·29	0·33	9·51

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During the year, the number of post offices and receiving-houses was increased by nine; of persons employed also by nine; and of miles of post roads by 50. The revenue increased by 1,200*l.*, and the expenditure, in consequence of the additional cost of conveying the intercolonial mails, by 3,210*l.*

By the electric telegraph were transmitted during the year 30,301 paid messages, and 7,789 free, as being on public service. On the total number of paid messages there was an increase, as compared with the previous year, of 18·55 per cent., and on the amount received, 7·80 per cent. On the number of messages transmitted on public service there was a decrease of 1,933, or 19·88 per cent. The increase on the messages by land lines was 4,109, or 26·03 per cent., on those by submarine cable 633, or 6·48 per cent. The total number of messages transmitted, of all kinds, including shipping messages, estimated at 4,000, was 42,090, against 39,281 in 1873.

The number of miles of telegraph open on 31st December 1874 was 291; in course of construction, 205.

On the Launceston and Western Railway there were conveyed during the year:—Passengers, 91,264; goods, 24,802 tons, the passengers showing an increase on the number in 1873 of 8,341, or 10·06 per cent.; the goods a decrease of 481 tons, or 1·90 per cent. The passenger traffic has been steadily increasing, the numbers in the last three years having been—1872, 63,647; 1873, 82,923; 1874, 91,264; the average per train being respectively 39·6, 44·01, and 48·14; and the average per train mile, 0·88, 0·99, and 1·07. The tonnage of goods in the same years was 18,111, 25,283, and 24,802; the average tons per train, 11·3, 13·5, and 13·2; and per train mile 0·25, 0·3, and 0·29.

The receipts of the railway were in 1874 18,325*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, or 3*s.* 10·7*d* per train mile, the working expenses 15,627*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, or 3*s.* 3·85*d.* per train mile, being at the rate of 347*l.* 5*s.* 7¼*d.* per mile of railway open, besides which there were losses by fire to the extent of 758*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*, leaving a balance in favour of revenue of 1,939*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* The revenue per train for 1873 was 4*s.* 1·02*d.*; for 1872 was 3*s.* 9·24*d.* The expenditure per train mile was—in 1873, 3*s.* 3·15*d.*; in 1872, 3*s.* 9·76*d.*

The total number of miles travelled in 1874 was 1,612,173, against 1,423,671 in 1873, being 13·24 per cent. in excess. The average distance over which each passenger travelled was, in 1874, 17·66 miles; in 1873, 17·17, an increase of 2·77 per cent.

The following statement affords all the information which is likely to be of any interest in regard to our very modest establishment for the propagation and distribution of acclimatised fish:—

RETURN showing the distribution of OVA and FRY from the BREEDING PONDS, RIVER PLENTY, during the year ending 31st December, 1874.

*Ova.**

Salmon trout—	Launceston - -	500
Brown trout —	Ditto - - -	6,300
„	Western Australia -	800
„	New South Wales -	250
„	Victoria - - -	3,650
„	New Zealand - -	800
	Total - -	12,300

Fry.

Brown trout —	Hobart Town - -	187
„	River Styx - -	125
„	River Plenty - -	100
„	Northern Rivers - -	200
	Total - -	612

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Licenses to fish for trout - -	79	5	0
Ova sold - - - -	10	0	0

The average number of prisoners under punishment in the penal establishments during 1874 was 540, of whom 380, or 70·37 per cent. had been Imperial convicts. The net cost of these establishments was 19,242*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, of which 13,947*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* was borne by the Colonial Government, and 5,294*l.* 18*s.* by the Imperial.

The hospitals had an average of 143 patients during the year, and caused a net expenditure of 6,183*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, nearly the whole of which was chargeable to the Colonial Government. In these are not included the hospital for the insane at New Norfolk, the cost of which was 6,231*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*, of which 766*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.* was apportioned to the Imperial Government. The average number of lunatics and idiots maintained during the year was 353, 200 of whom, or 56·66 per cent., had been Imperial convicts. Of these 353 lunatics, 270 were kept at New Norfolk, and 83 at Port Arthur. Calculating the proportion of expense at Port Arthur from the rate per head, the total cost incurred on account of lunatics in 1874 would be 8,616*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*

The pauper establishments include the Queen's Asylum for destitute children, the Cascades for males and females, the New Town Institution for females, the Invalid Depôt, Launceston, and the Brickfields for males, and the benevolent societies at Hobart Town and Launceston. The average daily number of paupers in

* One thousand brown trout ova were collected from the River Plenty, and the produce placed in the rills at the breeding ponds, for the purpose of increasing the stock of breeding fish.

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the Government Institutions was 1,001, the net cost of whom for the year was 13,256*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* Of the adults (751) 656, or 85·36 per cent. have been Imperial convicts. The benevolent societies relieved 387 adults, and 555 children during the year, at a net expense of 1,402*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, the Government contributing 1,064*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, and private individuals 507*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* Independently of these institutions, the treasurer disbursed the sum of 8,866*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* in out-door relief. Including the boys' home, but excluding the industrial school for females and the ragged schools, which are rather educational than eleemosynary institutions, the whole expenditure borne by the Colony for charitable objects (including hospitals), was 33,934*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*

The industrial school received from Government 398*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, and the ragged schools 300*l.* The average daily number of children maintained at the former was 36, and the average number in daily attendance at the latter 363.

As compared with the year 1873, the outdoor relief in 1874 increased by 53*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* The amount of relief dispensed by the benevolent societies was, on the contrary, considerably less.

The next returns are those of the Royal Society and Public Library. The amount of Government aid granted to the former was 600*l.* The number of visits recorded as having been made to the Society's museum was 16,456, and to the gardens 38,508, being in excess of those in 1873. The number of visits to the Public Library, as stated in the returns, was smaller by 852 than in 1873. This does not prove, however, that the actual use made of the library was less, because a considerable proportion of persons will always neglect to record their visits, and that proportion may happen to be greater in one year than another.

The road trusts had 3,075¾ miles of roads under their control; they raised 16,798*l.* 16*s.* 2½*d.* by rates and tolls; they received 5,670*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* from Government; they had balances in hand at the beginning of the year to the amount of 5,486*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; their aggregate revenue being 27,956*l.* 1*s.* 0½*d.* They expended in salaries 1,031*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*; on roads, directly, 19,212*l.* 7*s.* 3½*d.*; in other ways, 3,290*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, making a total of 23,534*l.* 2*s.* 1½*d.* There was an increase, as compared with the previous year, of 2,452*l.*10*s.* 3*d.* on rates and tolls, and of 4,170*l.* 7*s.* 5½*d.* in the total revenue. The sums contributed by the Treasury amounted to 1,322*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* less than in 1873. The collective balance in hand on 1st January 1874, as shown by the returns rendered to me for that year, appears to be 5,486*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*, while for those furnished for 1873 it amounted to only 4,945*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*, a difference of 540*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* The existence of such a difference, where there ought not to be any, shows the need of some effectual check upon the accounts. An audit, so called by persons who are not skilled accountants, or experienced in account keeping, is little better than useless. Without such a check it is simply impossible, however much trouble we may take, to be sure that the information supplied for statistical purposes is correct. On the total expenditure there was an increase of 4,693*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* The amount

spent directly upon roads was greater by 5,379*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*, while the indirect outlay for salaries and incidental expenses was 685*l.* 7*s.* 10½*d.* less.

The accounts of the two bridge trusts require no special comment. Their revenue amounted to 2,967*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*; their disbursements to 2,827*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*

The municipalities of Hobart Town and Launceston assessed the annual value of property within their limits at 161,559*l.*, being 1,183*l.* more than in 1873; they raised 24,125*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* from rates; they had a total revenue of 37,037*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*; and an aggregate expenditure of 36,506*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* On the revenue there was an increase of 794*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*; on the expenditure, an increase of 1,216*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.* The taxation in the pound at Hobart Town was 3*s.* 1½*d.*; at Launceston, 3*s.* 3*d.*

The rural municipalities assessed the annual value of property within their boundaries at 341,541*l.*, the rates levied being from 6*d.* to 9*d.* in the pound on private property. The amount produced by these rates was 11,570*l.* 14*s.* 4¾*d.*; their aggregate revenue was 19,524*l.* 16*s.* 4¾*d.*; their expenditure for police, 11,432*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*; for other salaries, 4,064*l.*, and for other purposes, 4,049*l.* 0*s.* 6½*d.*, being in the whole, 19,545*l.* 6*s.* 4½*d.* On the revenue there was a decrease of 857*l.* 4*s.* 5¼*d.*; and on the expenditure a decrease of 776*l.* 6*s.* 1½*d.*

The annual valuation of landed property in 1874, as shown by the valuation rolls, was 598,787*l.* The corresponding value in 1873 was assessed at 601,538*l.*, or 2,751*l.* more. The decrease arises out of a reduction in the district of Kingston from 25,396*l.* to 19,498*l.*, a difference of 5,898*l.*

V.—*Crown Lands, Agriculture, &c.*

The Crown lands sold in 1874 were—

	No.	A.	R.	P.
County lots - -	260	72,736	0	28
Town and suburban lots -	109	550	3	32
	369	73,287	0	20

producing a sum of 85,748*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* The county lands averaged 1*l.* 2*s.* 1½*d.* per acre, the town and suburban lands, 9*l.* 10*s.* Free grants under different Acts were made of 3,231 acres.

Comparing these figures with those for 1873, we find an increase of 5 in the number, of 31,152 in the acreage, and of 38,942*l.* in the amount for which they were sold. The county lots of and under 500 acres were fewer by 45 than in 1873, and the area was smaller by 2,729 acres. On the lots over 500 acres there was an increase of 23 (the number in 1874 being nearly three times that in 1873), and in the acreage, of 33,814. There were increases on the average price per acre—of county lands, of 1*s.* 4¼*d.*; of town lands, of 2*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*

There were leased, in Tasmania itself, 545,848 acres; in the Islands, 802,552 acres; producing a rental of 5,898*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*

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On the land under lease for pastoral purposes there was a decrease of 304,012 acres, and on the rental derived therefrom a decrease of 197*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* Considering that the decided tendency was to give more attention to wool-growing and stock-rearing, and less to agriculture, such a circumstance is quite contrary to all expectation, and since the figures for 1874 were, as I am given to understand, carefully revised, leads to the inference that there must have been some error in the previous return.

During 1874 there were issued—741 miners' rights, 13 business licenses, 3 gold mining leases, covering together 22a. 3r. 36p.; there were granted 1 prospecting claim, and 2 prospecting areas; and 2 machinery areas were registered; and the amount received was 522*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* In 1873 only 198 miners' rights were issued, 1 water right, and 10 business licenses; 2 leases were executed; and the amount received was only 476*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* The cause of this improvement was the re-opening of some of the mines at Nine Mile Springs, leading to the discovery of stone of exceptional richness. At the end of 1874 there were in force, in excess of the numbers at the end of 1873, 543 miners' rights, 1 water right, 3 business licenses, 5 leases comprehending 50a. 1r. 18p., 2 machinery areas, of 2 acres each; while 2 prospecting areas were relinquished.

Leases of mineral lands are taken up chiefly on speculation, and freely abandoned when the first excitement is over. In 1873 iron held the "pride of place" in popular favour, 20 leases, with an area of 1,488 acres, having been granted; in 1874 the "iron age" had passed away, only 5 leases, with an area of 192a. 3r., having been granted, and tin became the favourite, 16 leases, whose area was 1,279 acres, having been taken up, against 5, and 400 acres, in 1873. Five leases for coal, and 4 for slate, were also issued in 1874. The number of leases of mineral land in force at the end of that year was 56; namely, iron and tin, each 22; coal, 6; slate, 5; lime, 1; the total area 4,236 acres; and the total rental received, 1,036*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*; the rental received for new leases granted during the year being 489*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*

The agricultural and live stock returns were published this year on June 15, a month earlier than last year. They might have been brought out a week earlier, had the returns for Clarence and Richmond been received. The collector for Clarence has accounted for the delay by stating that he was waiting for the return of some of the producers' schedules; but from Richmond no explanation has been received.

The acreage in the principal crops for the last three years is shown below:—

Years.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Hops.
1872–3	62,390	5,751	27,373	7,513	33,268	661
1873–4	58,610	6,440	26,750	7,910	26,406	664
1874–5	57,633	5,129	32,704	6,978	30,486	656

It will be seen that only in oats was there an increase. The declension is due principally to two causes; 1. The difficulty of obtaining labour, and the increase in the rate of wages; 2. The rise in the price of wool; both combined making it more to the interest of the landholder to grow wool than agricultural produce.

In the land under peas, beans, and tares there was a decrease of 601 acres as compared with the figures for the previous year; while the acreage occupied by root crops (turnips, carrots, mangold wurzel, and onions), was larger by 787, nearly 36 per cent. There were also decreases under the head of gardens and orchards, green forage, permanent artificial grasses (under which term is included all land which has been laid down in grass, and has not relapsed into a state of nature, as distinguished from natural or "bush" pastures), bare fallow, and "all other cultivated land." Under the head of "new land broken up" there is an increase of 274 acres; under "rotation of crops," there appears to be a decrease of 4,228 acres. This I believe to be apparent only, and to arise from the better understanding of the term. So much had this important point in husbandry been neglected, that for some years it was exceedingly difficult to get farmers and some collectors to comprehend even what was meant by it.

Although the breadth of land in crop was in most cases less than in 1873–4, the yield in every case, except that of tobacco, hops, and apples, was considerably greater. This will be best seen by showing in one view the average produce of the principal crops for the last three years:—

Years.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Hops.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Lbs.
1872–3	17·63	23·04	25·00	4·21	1·44	1503·42
1873–4	15·66	20·14	20·78	3·17	1·15	1261·93
1874–5*	18·51	24·47	26·83	3·75	1·35	1237·42

The season of 1874–5 was a favourable one, the rain fall at Hobart Town having been in excess of that of the preceding year; though the reports speak of the effects of drought upon the crops at Campbell Town, Fingal, and Horton. Grub, wire-worm, and blight, as well as rabbits, were also destructive in some districts.

It will be useful to compare these yields with those of other

* It should here be noted that a somewhat different system of calculating the general average in this year has been adopted, In the previous years the sum of the averages was found and divided by the number for the mean; for 1874–5 the total area was divided by the total produce. Experience has shown that the latter method is the more exact. The average of hops for the two years previous to 1874–5, as shown above, has been recalculated on this principle.

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countries. For Victoria, N. S. Wales, and Western Australia the average is for three years.*

Countries.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Potatoes.	Hay.
BRITISH.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
Victoria (1873–5) -	14·9	20·23	17·9	3·3	1·3
N. S. Wales (1872–4) -	14·74	17·88	19·67	3·0	—
S. Australia† - -	9·15	12·21	13·55	3·36	—
Western Australia (1871–3).	11·03	14·51	15·73	2·35	—
New Zealand (1872–3)	23·35	21·45	26·89	4·22	—
FOREIGN.				Bushels.	
Holland (1871) -	23·2	39·1	45·3	116·6	—
Spain (1857) - -	23·3	24·3	—	—	—
Norway (1870) -	22·1	30·3	35·7	259·1	—
Belgium (1866) -	20·3	34·9	41·2	—	—
France (1872) -	19·3	21·5	28·2	101·3	—
Wurtemburg (1872) -	18·4	24·7	28·4	69·8	—
Prussia (1867) -	17·1	25·1	32·9	—	—
United States (1872) -	12·0	19·2	30·2	85·3	—

Thus it will be seen that Tasmania is more productive than any of the other Australasian Colonies, excepting New Zealand.

Some progress was made, in the face of all discouragements, in the use of manures, in drainage, and in the employment of machinery, to which I shall have again to refer. Of the latter, a good criterion is the number of acres of wheat reaped by machine, and by hand, in the last three years, which was as follows :—

	By Machine.	By Hand.
1872–3 -	- 2,389 -	- 60,001
1873–4 -	- 5,728 -	- 52,882
1874–5 -	- 9,524 -	- 48,109

The proportion reaped by machine in these years was therefore 3·83, 9·77, and 16·52 per cent. respectively of the total acreage.

The mean prices of agricultural produce, as returned on 31st March 1875, were generally lower than those of the previous year. The following were, however, higher :—Turnips, carrots, mangel wurzel, hay, tobacco, and hops.

The return of machines worked by horse and steam used for agricultural purposes shows that considerable progress was being made in this respect, notwithstanding that there appear 6 steam

* The above figures, with the exception of those relating to wheat, oats, potatoes, and hay in Victoria, are taken from the agricultural returns published by the Board of Trade in England. The average produce per acre is not given in the statistics of New South Wales ; in Queensland, not even the gross produce. This is a good example of the difficulties in making comparisons caused by the absence of uniformity in statistics, and of the desirability of reducing figures into such a form (per-centages, averages, &c.) that they may at once be employed for comparative purposes, without the labour and expenditure of time necessary if the calculations had to be made whenever the results were required.

† Average of four years, 1871–4. In two of these years the yield was very low.

engines of 64 horse-power and 20 hay elevators less than in 1874. For, on the other hand, there were the following increases :—

	Worked	
	By Horse.	By Steam.
Clod crushers	1	—
Chaff cutters	50	1
Cultivators	15	—
Corn crushers	3	2
Hay rakes	12	—
Horse hoes, &c.	53	—
Lift and force pumps	9	6
Mowing machines	15	—
Reaping machines	27	—
Reaper and mower combined	42	—
Plough (subsoil)	47	—
Sowing machines	2	—
Threshing machines	5	7

The number of live stock returned on 31st March last, with the increase on the numbers for the preceding year, are shown below :—

	Number, 1875.	Increase.
Horses	23,208	5
Horned cattle	110,450	4,1
Sheep	1,714,168	223, 4
Goats	2,579	3
Pigs	51,468	—

Pigs are the only description of stock in which there was a decrease. The diminution amounted to 8,160. The cause is not explained, but there is no reason to suppose that there is any error in the returns, since the deficiency is not found in one or two districts only, but is pretty equally distributed over the whole.

The number of live stock imported and the number slaughtered at the public slaughter-houses in Hobart Town and Launceston in 1874 was—

Imported.

Sheep	20,834
Horned cattle	784

Slaughtered.

Sheep	67,329
Horned cattle	8,230
Pigs	5,161

Compared with the numbers in 1873, there were increases—On sheep: imported, 7,596; slaughtered, 7,099; on pigs, 504. There were decreases—On horned cattle: imported, 137; slaughtered, 609.

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The reports of the collectors speak of the difficulty of obtaining labour in the country districts, and show that this is at least one of the causes of the increase of sheep, since at the present price of wool, it is more convenient and profitable to feed sheep and cattle than to cultivate for crops. The increase in the land appropriated to stock feeding of course implies a corresponding reduction in the area under crop. The collectors also note an increase in the use of machinery at Evandale, Glamorgan, Longford, and Westbury. At Longford reaping machines are coming into general use, and at Westbury there is reported to be "a vast "improvement. The double-furrow plough, reaping, and mowing "machines are much used in the district." At New Norfolk the introduction of subsoil ploughs is noticed. Fallowing and the use and conservation of manures are mentioned as coming into vogue at Glamorgan, Oatlands, Richmond, Hamilton, and Longford. In view of the tendency to substitute pastoral for agricultural operations, it could scarcely be expected that underground drainage would receive increased attention; but I am pleased to find that in the New Norfolk district a trial has been made, though on a small scale, and the consequence is stated to be, that "the "ground can be successfully cultivated now, whereas previously "to its being drained, it could not be depended on." "The "result," I am informed, "is very satisfactory." Draining (I presume on the surface) is noticed also at Oatlands and Spring Bay.

I am glad to hear that at Green Ponds one individual is devoting himself assiduously to horse breeding. Improvements in the breed of cattle and sheep are reported at Hamilton, Kingborough, Port Sorell, Westbury, and Longford; and I am informed that at Spring Bay "there is evidently much more care "bestowed on the washing and sorting of wool than formerly "was the practice. There has also been an increased desire "generally to obtain a better class of sheep by using the best "rams procurable." It appears plain that the energies of those who form the agricultural and pastoral classes were devoted principally and increasingly to the rearing and improvement of stock; and there does seem to have been an important advance in this direction.

VI.—*Law, Crime, &c.*

The number of persons committed for trial continued to decrease, having been only 120 in 1874, while it was 125 in 1873, 123 in 1872, 137 in 1871, and 238 in 1866.

The number tried in the superior courts, that is in the supreme court, and in the recorder's court at Launceston, in 1874, was 81, of whom 63 were convicted, and 18 acquitted. Of these 81, 65 were charged with felonies, 16 with misdemeanors; and of their offences, 27 were against the person, and 54 against property. In 1873 the number tried was 101, convicted 75; in 1872, tried 108, convicted 82.

The total number of ordinary cases dealt with in the magistrates' courts in 1874 was 6,513, against 7,308 in 1873, and 6,321 in 1872. Curiously enough, the number of cases of drunkenness tried was exactly the same (1,474) in 1873 and 1874. Adding the number of convictions obtained and the orders for payment of money made in the three years the sum will be—in 1872, 4,464; in 1873, 5,193; and in 1874, 4,693. The corresponding numbers in the three preceding years were in 1871, 4,725; in 1870, 5,056; and in 1869, 5,202. Notwithstanding the excess of cases in 1873, the general tendency, it will be observed, was towards a diminution of offences.

Besides the ordinary magisterial cases, there were 2,389 of non-payment of the Launceston and Western Railway Rate, which resulted in 1,952 orders being made for payment.

There were again no executions in 1874. The last execution was in 1870.

In order to facilitate comparison of these figures with those of other countries, I show in a tabular form the proportions per 1,000 of the total population for the last three years.

—	Proportion per 1,000 of Total Population.		
	1872.	1873.	1874.
Committed for trial - - -	1·19	1·20	1·15
In superior courts { tried - -	1·05	0·97	0·78
In superior courts { convicted - -	0·80	0·72	0·60
In magisterial courts—convictions and orders for payment of money.	43·37	49·82	45·04

The decrease in the more serious offences is plain. The increase in minor offences is doutless traceable to temporary causes.

The supreme court in its ordinary civil jurisdiction issued 204 writs of summons, and tried 20 causes in 1874, there being increases of 22 and 1 respectively as compared with 1873.

The civil business done in the supreme court in its small debts jurisdiction, and in the courts of requests, in the last three years, was as under :—

—	1872.	1873.	1874.
Total No. of { summonses issued -	3,291	2,543	2,333
Total No. of { cases tried - -	2,008	1,606	1,295
	£	£	£
Total amount of { claims sued for -	17,009	13,277	12,887
Total amount of { verdicts obtained -	8,744	6,317	6,378

Probates and letters of administration were granted in 1874 to the number of 133, the value of the property being sworn under

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255,323*l.* In 1873 the number was only 85, and the amount only 111,688*l.*

Sixteen petitions in bankruptcy were presented in 1874, against 7 in the previous year; and 25 petitions for liquidation by arrangement, against 7 in 1873.

This great increase, as is well known, was caused by the failure of a large firm in Launceston, drawing in many smaller firms, and occasioning for the time a general disturbance of commercial credit. The petitions in bankruptcy at Launceston and Hobart Town were as 11 to 5, and the petitions for liquidation as 20 to 5. The assets and liabilities are not given for Hobart Town, but at Launceston, the former was only between one-seventh and one-eighth of the latter.

The mortgages in 1874 were—

	No.	£
Under the old system - -	219 - -	113,781
Under the Real Property Act	121 - -	36,393
	340	150,174

In 1873 the corresponding totals were—number, 367; amount 229,411*l.* The mortgages transferred were in both years 5; the amount in 1874 being 15,695*l.*, in 1873, 3,550*l.* Mortgages discharged, in 1874, 68; in 1873, 82; amount, in 1874, 21,180*l.*; in 1873, 32,618.

The bills of sale were fewer, and for a smaller amount, than in 1873, the figures being—for 1874, 149, amount 46,092*l.*; for 1873, 151, and 59,752*l.*

There was an increase of 49 in the memorials, &c. registered in the office of the registrar of deeds; and of 91 in the number of grant deeds enrolled in the supreme court.

Inquests were held as to the cause of death in 1874 in 138 cases, 93 being males and 45 females, the aggregate number being 18 less than in 1873.

The total police force in 1874 consisted of 21 superintendents, 9 chief and 9 second-class district constables, 26 sub-inspectors, 17 sergeants, 160 petty constables, 27 special constables, and 3 detectives, together 272. The total cost, as returned by the inspector was—Territorial, 7,956*l.*; municipal, 20,797*l.*; together 28,752*l.* The returns furnished by the municipalities give 15,054*l.* as the cost of their police. I account for the discrepancy by supposing that they have in the latter sum returned the expenditure for salaries alone. This was not my intention in drawing out the form: I desired to ascertain the whole cost of the police force. Even as regards salaries alone, however, there is a discrepancy of 2,935*l.*, to which I should wish to direct the special attention of the mayors and wardens, in order that it may be rectified or explained next year.

VII.—*Education.*

During the year 6 schools seem to have been added to the number under the board of education. The number of distinct scholars on the rolls was 12,158, the average number on the rolls being 7,970; the average daily attendance was 5,867; the number entered during the year 4,689; the number who left 2,627. The teaching staff consisted of 107 male and 116 female teachers and assistant teachers, and 16 male and 23 female pupil teachers and paid monitors. On these numbers the increases were—distinct scholars on the rolls, 1,355; average scholars on the rolls, 923; average daily attendance, 599; number entered, 838; teachers and assistant teachers, 10; pupil teachers and monitors, 7. It is to be presumed that these increases were the effect of a more stringent application of the compulsory clauses of the Public Schools Act. The increase in the number of new scholars was about 22 per cent.

The total amount granted for the schools from the funds at the disposal of the board was 12,865*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, or 2*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* for each scholar, calculated upon the average daily attendance; besides which 4,933*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* was contributed by the parents and friends of the children. The amount borne by the public was greater by 593*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* than in 1873; but the average for each child was 3*s.* 10¾*d.* less.

The expenditure of the Council of Education in connexion with the Tasmanian scholarships and the degree of associate of arts was 960*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, or 323*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* more than in 1873. The amount expended for exhibitions was 558*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, or 3*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* less.

As regards friendly societies, the return for 1874 shows fewer members in consequence of one lodge having omitted to state the number of its members. The receipts exhibit a slight increase, also the expenditure; but the capital was augmented by no more than 50*l.* The number of societies which filed returns was 2 more than in the previous year; but in the absence of any penalty for neglect, the law is still in many cases set at defiance.

VIII.—*Vital Statistics.*

The number of births of children registered in 1874 was 3,097—the increase as regards the previous year being 49. The ratio of births per 1,000 of population at the end of the year was 29·73.

Of the children born, 1,601 were males, and 1,496 females; the proportion of boys to girls being as 107·02 to 100. This is in excess of the average proportion, which is rather over 104 to 100. Since 1865 the preponderance of births of males in 1874 has been exceeded in two years only—1870 and 1871—when it was 112·23 and 107·97 respectively. These high ratios are somewhat remarkable, since I find that in Victoria, from 1864 to 1873, the excess never arose above 6·45 per 100; in Scotland, from 1855 to 1870, never above 6·6 per 100; in England, from 1861 to 1870, never above 4·7 per 100.

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The registered births exceeded the registered deaths by 1407. Including the one death unregistered, the deaths were 54·57 per cent. of the births.

The deaths registered in 1874 numbered 1689; and one, unregistered, occurred at Port Arthur. The rate of mortality was 16·22 in every thousand persons living at the end of the year. With the exception of 1868, when it was 16·61, the death-rate has not been so high during the last nine years. The deaths of males was 1022; of females, 667. The mortality of males in 1874 was 18·54 per 1000; of females, 13·59. The proportion of males to females was therefore as 136·38 to 100. In 1873 it was only as 130·17 to 100. That is, out of every 100 persons who died in 1874, 60·51 were males, and only 39·49 females; and of those who died in 1873, 59·57 were males and 40·43 females. In 1872 the proportions were 59·03 and 40·97 respectively. From this it appears that the mortality of males in 1874 was exceptionally high.

Distinguished in regard to ages, the registered deaths in that year out of 100 at all known ages were :—

Under 1 year				-	-	19·08
1 and under 2 years				-	-	4·70
2	„	3	„	-	-	2·67
3	„	4	„	-	-	1·49
4	„	5	„	-	-	1·13
5	„	10	„	-	-	3·27
10	„	40	„	-	-	16·53
40	„	60	„	-	-	18·91
60	„	80	„	-	-	26·40
80 and upwards				-	-	5·82

I will mention only two circumstances in connexion with the foregoing figures, namely :—That the proportion of deaths of children under 10 years of age formed no more than 32·34 per cent. of the deaths at all ages; and that the deaths of old people from 60 upwards were 32·22 per cent. I find that in Victoria, in 1873, the proportion of children cut off by disease before completing their tenth year was 47·89 per cent.; while that of persons from 55 upwards (the difference of 5 years in classification giving Victoria *pro tanto* an excess) was only 15·52 per cent. As regards children, the inference is plain—that the smaller proportion of deaths is due to the greater healthiness of the climate of Tasmania; indeed its superiority in this respect is so marked that the subject is well worth dwelling upon a little more at length.

The most important criterion of infant mortality is considered to be the ratio of deaths of infants under one year old to the births in any given year. The per-centage of such deaths in the Australian Colonies for the five years, 1869–73, was—In Tasmania, 9·45; N.S. Wales, 9·57; in Queensland, 11·07; in Victoria, 11·86; and in South Australia, 14·24. From the report of the Registrar-General of England for 1870, it appears that in that year 16 deaths of infants to every 100 births occurred, and 15·6 in

1869. The per-centage ranged from 15 in one large town to nearly 26 in another. In Scotland, in 1870, it appears to have been 12·28.

Other ways of ascertaining the relative mortality are (1.) by comparing the deaths at a given age with the total number of deaths at all ages; and (2.) by calculating the ratio which they bear to each 1,000 of the general population. The subjoined tables show the proportion of deaths of children up to 5 years, and between 5 and 10. The first method gives the following results :—

	Per-centage of Total Deaths.	
	Under 5 years.	Between 5 and 10.
Tasmania - - - - -	28·08	30·13
New South Wales - - - -	42·14	45·60
Victoria - - - -	45·50	50·27
Queensland - - - - -	46·33	49·09
South Australia - - - -	54·17	57·81

The period to which these figures refer is the same as before; namely, the five years from 1869 to 1873. The second method presents the same result in a different form, the period being the same as before.

	Ratio of Deaths of Children to 1,000 Persons of all Ages living.	
	Under 5 Years.	Between 5 and 10.
Tasmania - - - -	3·87	4·25
New South Wales - - -	5·61	6·07
Victoria - - - -	6·58	7·27
Queensland - - -	6·93	7·34
South Australia - - -	7·28	7·77

In Tasmania no more than 20·25 per cent. of the total deaths were those of infants under one year; and only 6·83 were those of children between 1 and 5 years of age. The ratio of deaths of infants under one year to 1,000 persons at all ages living, was only 2·79; and between 0 (birth) and 5, it was no more than 3·87. In Victoria in 1873 the proportions to total deaths were—under 1 year, 27·66 per cent.; between 1 and 5 years, 14·98. The ratios to 1,000 of all ages living were—under 1 year, 4·02; between 0 and 5 years, 6·20. In Scotland, in 1870, the per-centage of deaths was—for children under 1 year, 19·10; between 1 and 5 years, 16·84; the ratio to population—under 1 year, 4·22 per 1,000; between 0 and 5 years, 7·93 per 1,000.

A third method is to compare the deaths to 1,000 persons *at*

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each age living. Taking the numbers, as found by the Census of 1870, as the basis of the calculation, the deaths were—

Under 1 year - - -	95·66
Between 1 and 2 years - -	19·70
„ 2 „ 5 „ - -	6·28
„ 0 „ 5 „ - -	26·78
„ 5 „ 10 „ - -	2·57
All other ages - - -	13·46

I have not leisure to make the tedious calculations necessary before we can contrast each of these ratios with the corresponding figures for the Australian Colonies; but from sources already available I find that in Victoria, on an average of 10 years, the ratio per 1,000 for children under 5 years was, for males 55·08, for females, 49·66 (the mean, which is not very far from the true rate for both, being 52·37); and in England and Wales, on an average of 30 years, it was 72·42 and 62·46 for males and females, respectively (mean 67·44); while our rate, for both sexes, was only 26·78. Between 5 and 10 years, the rate was:—In Tasmania, 2·57; in Victoria, from 6·95 for females to 7·52 for males (mean, 7·23); in England and Wales, from 8·67 for females to 8·79 for males (mean 8·73). In Scotland the ratios* were in 1870:—

—	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
Under 1 year - -	155·42	126·45	140·29
Between 1 and 2 years -	68·88	65·04	66·52
Between 0 and 5 years -	62·28	55·49	58·52
Between 5 and 10 years -	10·45	9·82	10·07

This means, that in every 1,000 infants under one year old in Scotland, about 44 who now die, would at least survive the most dangerous period of life, with proportionally favourable chances of attaining maturity, if they were born under the more happy skies of Tasmania; between 1 and 2, the saving of life would be about 47 per 1,000; between 2 and 5, about 52; between birth and 5, about 32; and between 5 and 10, about 7.

During 1874, 98 persons of 80 years and upwards died; 18 being between 90 and 100; and 1 over 100. At the date of the last Census in 1870 the number at 80 and upwards was returned at 360; and as there has probably not been any great change in it since, the mortality per 1,000 living at this age would be about 270.

There was a serious increase in the miasmatic order of diseases in 1874, the number having been 198 in 1873, and 292 in the following year—the excess being 94, or nearly 48 per cent. Scarlatina, diphtheria, quinsy, croup, whooping-cough, fevers, erysipelas, metria, and diarrhœa were more prevalent and fatal. Local diseases also caused more deaths; developmental diseases of children had 3 more; old age 16 more; atrophy and debility 3

* Calculated on the population of 3rd April 1871.

more ; while enthetic, dietic, and parasitic diseases in the zymotic class, constitutional diseases, and developmental diseases of adults had fewer. Violent deaths were 3 more. Suicides were the same in number, namely, 6 in both years. For the 5 years, 1869–73, the average number of suicides was 5·70 to every 100,000 persons. In Victoria, for the 10 years, 1864–73, the average was 11·03 per 100,000.

The proportion of deaths in each class in 1874 to 100 deaths from specified causes, as compared with the proportions in Victoria and England to all causes, was as follows :—

Classes of Disease.	Tasmania.	Victoria.	England and Wales.
	Year 1874.	Average of 16 Years.	Average of 10 Years.
Zymotic - - -	18·92	30·47	22·74
Constitutional - -	12·43	13·06	18·75
Local - - -	41·98	32·00	38·88
Developmental - -	20·06	15·20	16·12
Violent - - -	6·61	9·27	3·51
Total - -	100·00	100·00	100·00

In this comparison there are two things which operate against Tasmania, the unusual mortality of 1874, and the fact that the proportion is calculated on the *specified** deaths only, making it larger than if the total number were taken. Still the zymotic and constitutional diseases show a considerably lower ratio than in the other countries. The excess of developmental diseases is caused by the deaths of old people, which were 12·49 per cent. of the deaths from specified causes. The proportion of deaths from old age to those *from all causes* in Victoria for the five years, 1864–68, was 1·04 per cent. ; for the next five (1869–73), 1·89 per cent. ; and for the year 1873, 2·12, showing a rapid increase : in New South Wales, the oldest Colony, for the two corresponding quinquenniads, it was 3·62 and 5·50 respectively ; and for 1873, 6·42. At the date of the last census, the proportion of persons of 60 years and upwards in Tasmania was 6·64 per cent. ; in Victoria, 2·75 ; in New South Wales, 4·18. The higher mortality of old people is therefore attributable to the presence of a much larger proportion of persons of advanced age. The per-centage of deaths registered as from "old age" in this Colony for 1868 and following years was,—

1868 - -	7·32	1871 - -	10·12
1869 - -	8·45	1872 - -	9·96
1870 - -	10·96	1873 - -	12·49

giving a yearly average of 9·88 per cent.

* This method is adopted by the registrar-general of Scotland, and seems to be preferable to the other.

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The number of marriages contracted in 1874 was 712, against 659 in 1873, being 53 in excess. By deputy registrars three were performed in 1874, none in 1873. There was a decrease of 5 on the Church of England marriages, and 11 on the Church of Scotland; an increase of 22 on the Independent, 15 on the Primitive Methodist, 11 on the Roman Catholic, 8 on the Free Church of Scotland, 6 on the Wesleyan, and smaller increases on marriages among other denominations. The Baptists had one marriage in each of the two years.

The marriage rate in 1874 was 6·83 per 1,000; in 1873, 6·32; and in 1872, 6·14. The proportion of births to each marriage was —in 1874, 4·35; in 1873, 4·62; in 1872, 4·77; and in 1871, 5·11; in 1870, 4·56; in 1869, 4·39; in 1868, 4·57; in 1867, 4·98; in 1866, 4·81; and in 1865, 5·19. The mean of the earlier five years was 4·81, and of the latter five, 4·68. Thus the tendency was, on the whole, though with some inequalities, a downward one from 1865 to 1870; and from 1870 to 1874 the descent was uninterrupted.

The ratio of births and marriages to 1,000 of the population for those years is shown in the subjoined table, so that it may be read in connexion with the preceding figures:—

Years.	Proportion per 1,000 of the Living Population.	
	Births.	Marriages.
1865	32·23	6·20
1866	28·81	5·86
1867	30·18	6·06
1868	29·69	6·49
1869	28·78	6·55
1870	30·31	6·65
1871	29·99	5·87
1872	29·27	6·14
1873	29·24	6·32
1874	29·73	6·83

In the first quinquenniad the mean birth rate was 29·94; in the second, 29·71; while the marriage rate for the same periods respectively was 6·23 and 6·36. The marriage rate increased from 1866 to 1870, when it suddenly fell, and again from 1871 to 1874, in which year it attained the maximum of the decade.

In the general hospitals at Hobart Town and Launceston, the hospital at Campbell Town, and the Queen's Asylum, 1,521 cases of disease were treated, the number of deaths being 166, or 10·91 per cent. In the Queen's Asylum there were 78 cases treated, with only one death. Excluding these cases, the mortality in the hospitals alone was 11·43 per cent. In the hospital for insane it was only 7·97 per cent.

In the penal establishments, taken together, with an average daily number of adults of 310, an average age of each inmate of

46·33 years, the number of cases of sickness treated was 745, and of deaths 18, or 2·41 per cent. Among the children in the reformatory and infants in the prison with their mothers, there were 16 cases of sickness, but no death. In the next class, that of paupers, we find that 808 adults, of the average age of 58·79 years, furnished 1,375 cases for treatment, and had 117 deaths, which were therefore in the proportion of 8·51 per cent. The children (including the Queen's Asylum), 271, whose average age was 6½ years, had 99 cases of sickness, and four deaths, giving a per-centage of 4·04. The sickness and mortality among the insane and idiots were as follows:—Adults, average number, 343; average age, 58½; number of cases, 379; deaths, 35, or 9·23 per cent.; children, average number, 10; average age, 13; cases, 16; death, 1, or 6·25 per cent. Calculated on the average daily numbers, the mortality per cent. for each class was, criminals, 5·81; paupers, adults, 14·48; children, 1·48; insane, adults, 10·20; children, 10·00.

There were no vaccinations performed during the year at any institution maintained or assisted by the Government.

Coming now to the meteorology of the year, as shown by the observations taken at Hobart Town, and comparing the results with those of the 30 years' tables, we find that the mean height of the barometer was 29·894, or 0·44 greater; mean temperature, 57·52, or 2·80 higher; mean diurnal range, 20·73, or 2·82 in excess; solar intensity, 91·54, or 1·85 less; terrestrial radiation, 39·72, or 3·29 less; dew point, 46·7, or 1·2 higher; humidity of air, 0·69, or 0·06 less; elastic force of vapour, 0·316 (equal); rain-fall, 24·09 inches, or 1·38 more; number of days on which rain, 138, or 2 less; ozone, 5·82, or 1·42 less; wind-force, monthly mean, 80·55 lbs. per square inch, or 22·18 lbs. in excess. The prevailing wind was, as usual, the north-west in 10 months of the year, and the south-east in the remaining two; but the latter, instead of taking the second place during six months, as it generally does, gave way to strong south-west gales in October and November.

IX.—*Miscellaneous.*

The last subject to which I have to advert is that of the political franchise. And first, as to the Legislative Council. Before the last revision, in January and February 1875, there were 2,819 names on the electoral rolls. At the revision 94 electors were found to have died, and 134 names were struck off on other grounds, and 227 were added; leaving 2,818, or 10 less than in the preceding year. As regards the rolls for the House of Assembly, 255 electors were found to have died, and 1,867 to be disqualified by other causes, and 2,101 names were added; leaving 13,996 on the rolls for 1875.

The foregoing facts and figures indicate that the improvement in the state of the Colony, which commenced in 1872, continued to operate in 1874; and many of the words with which I closed my report for 1873 are equally applicable to the past year. The

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most unfavourable circumstance disclosed by the statistics for 1874 is the withdrawal of population and capital, due to the greater attractions offered by the other Colonies in the way of higher wages and interest of money. Tasmania in regard to her insular position, her geographical features, and the limited extent of her territory, is placed at a disadvantage as compared with her competitors; but, with ordinary energy, her superiority in some other respects ought to secure for her a fair measure of permanent prosperity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. C. NOWELL,
Government Statistician.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 16.

Governor SIR H. BARKLY, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Cape Town,
July 8, 1875.

MY LORD,

IN forwarding copy of the Blue Book of this Colony for 1874, I have the honour to submit a few observations on the returns contained in it for your Lordship's information.

Revenue and Expenditure.

When introducing the budget of the present year the Premier took occasion to refer to the progressive increase of the revenue during the last five years, and I cannot do better than quote some of his figures.

Although, as given in the newspaper report, they may not in all cases tally precisely with those of the Blue Book, they are near enough for the purpose of comparison.

Mr. Molteno stated that, exclusive of loans, the receipts for—

		£
1870	had amounted to	661,392
1871	„	734,663
1872	„	1,039,887
1873	„	1,232,756
1874	„	1,518,008

having thus more than doubled within this brief period, and this not only without additional taxation, but in the face of considerable reductions in that respect.

The expenditure naturally enough advanced in nearly equal ratio, though it has always been kept so well within bounds that a surplus remained in hand at the close of each year. According to Mr. Molteno's speech this—

	£
In 1870 amounted to	35,518
„ 1871 „	97,712
„ 1872 „	389,318
„ 1873 „	295,943
„ 1874 „	403,523
Forming a total of	£1,222,014

Of this, 546,966*l.* has been employed in paying off temporary loans and redeeming debentures, whilst, after defraying out of the remainder a part of the outlay on the construction of railways, a balance remained disposable on the 31st December last of no less than 362,880*l.*

The expenditure of 1874, which had been estimated at 1,118,463*l.*, actually amounted to 1,199,971*l.*, an excess of 81,508*l.* For 1875 it was estimated higher still, viz., at 1,264,087*l.*, but as the revenue is expected, on the most moderate computation, to amount to 1,445,000*l.*, an adequate margin for further accumulation is left.

Public Debt.

There is an addition to the statement under this head in this year's Blue Book of 360,000*l.* on account of a loan raised for the purposes of railway construction, bringing the total debt, in spite of the liquidation of some old debentures, up to 2,399,708*l.*

Of this, as explained by Mr. Molteno, 765,858*l.* was raised in former times for general purposes, including immigration; 1,172,500*l.* has been borrowed for railways and public works, and 461,350*l.* for harbour works.

The aggregate annual charge for interest is 123,374*l.*, of which, however, 22,479*l.* pertaining to the last-mentioned item is reimbursed out of harbour dues paid by shipping, leaving about 100,000*l.* to be met from the general revenue.

Public Works.

Few colonies could show, as has just been done, that they owe little more than a year and a half's income; two-thirds of it being for the purchase or construction of reproductive works, or that they have an annual surplus at least double what is payable for interest on their debt.

Such a position fully justifies the Cape Colony in looking to the English money market for a loan of a million per annum for the next five years, in order to carry out the general scheme of railway communication sanctioned by its Legislature, and it can hardly be doubted that it will obtain from time to time, on the most favourable terms, the funds wanted.

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The execution of the railway works is making steady progress; the first section of the line from Port Elizabeth towards Graham's Town, and the extension of the Cape Town and Wellington line to Worcester, being both nearly ready for opening.

Telegraphic communication with Colesberg on the south bank of the Orange River has been for some months in operation, but the line running thence through the Free State to Griqualand West is not yet completed.

The contract for laying a submarine cable from Algoa Bay to Aden has, it is much to be feared, fallen through for the present.

Imports and Exports.

Reverting to Mr. Molteno's figures, the value of goods imported (excluding specie) was—

	£
In 1870 - - -	2,352,043
„ 1871 - - -	2,585,198
„ 1872 - - -	4,388,782
„ 1873 - - -	5,130,065
„ 1874 - -	5,558,218

In comparing these returns it should be borne in mind that the last includes the value of materials for railways, iron bridges, &c. imported by Government, which was probably not short of half a million; but, even with this deduction, it shows that the trade of the country has far more than doubled during the last five years.

The value of exports would not, at first sight, appear to have increased in an equal proportion, the returns showing it—

	£
In 1870 as	2,453,494
„ 1871 „	3,531,609
„ 1872 „	4,757,494
„ 1873 „	3,907,911
„ 1874 „	4,138,838

but while in several of the above years the value of diamonds exported figured for large sums, last year the valuation of the few declared at the Custom House was no more than 8,148*l.*, although the total value sent through the post office must, according to the annual report of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, have been nearer a million and a quarter than a million.

The exports of 1874 were therefore in reality twice as valuable as those of 1870, and very nearly balanced the imports.

The annual report of the Port Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce points out that another very interesting item was for the first time introduced into the export list of the year, viz., gold dust.

Only 3,827 oz., valued at 14,772*l.*, appear in the Blue Book return, but the quantity taken home by passengers must have been far larger. Although the diggings from which it was obtained are situated on the confines of the South African

Republic, they are worked for the most part by British subjects aided by British capital, and there can be little doubt that they will, as predicted in the report, exercise, in due course, an important bearing on the commerce of Port Elizabeth.

Population, Education, Crime, &c.

The returns under the first head are based on the Census of March 1865, but as a fresh Census was taken on the 7th March of the present year I am enabled to give an authentic account of the population at the close of the decennial period, although full details will not be procurable for some time to come.

The total population in 1865, adding that of British Kaffraria, which had not then been incorporated with the Cape, is set down at 565,158 souls, which, taking the area of the Colony at 200,000 square miles, gave an average of under six persons (5·65) for every two square miles.

In 1875 the schedules show the population to be 721,502, or over seven persons (7·21) to the same area. This change is not of much moment, and it may be still said that few countries in the world are so sparsely peopled.

The net increase during the last 10 years according the above data equals 23·84 per cent., which is on the whole by no means unsatisfactory, being nearly double the ratio of the last decennial period in Great Britain (12·73), although scarcely half what it has been in some of the Australian colonies.

There are, however, many considerations to be taken into account in estimating the movement of population in this Colony which do not apply, at any rate to the same extent, to Australia.

It is not yet ascertained whether the relative proportion of increase here has been the same in the population of European and of native origin, but, in regard to both, disturbing causes have been in active operation during the decade.

As regards the former, independently of the tendency of the Dutch farmer to "trek" into the Orange Free State, or Trans Vaal, especially after the bad seasons which prevailed in the Colony for a series of years, the attractions of the diamond fields first of all, and latterly of the Leydenberg gold fields, led many thousands of the younger and more active colonists into those regions; and though a large portion have since returned, the effects of this exodus is still perceptible in the towns and villages. On the other hand, shortly after the Census of 1865 was taken, measures were set on foot for the removal beyond the Kei of the Fingoes and other friendly tribes to fill up the country from which the Galekas under Kreli had been driven, and during the next few years some 40,000 to 50,000 of such emigrants quitted the Colony.

Under all the circumstances therefore the increase in the population is quite as large as could have been anticipated.

I have spoken hitherto of what may be called the Cape Colony proper, but as Basutoland was annexed to it by Act No. 12 of 1871, its population, which by the Census just taken amounts to 378 Europeans and 127,323 natives, must now be included.

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This brings the aggregate for the Colony up to 849,203, and if the native settlers already alluded to in Fingoland, the Idutcheva Reserve, and elsewhere in the Trans Keian Territory, who are ruled by colonial magistrates, and regard themselves as never having ceased to be British subjects, be added, the total population under the Cape Government does not fall short of 1,000,000.

It is gratifying to find from the report of the superintendent general of education that the number of schools and of scholars has increased during the last 10 years in a much higher ratio than the population.

According to Dr. Dale, the State expenditure for public education was in 1864, 21,194*l.*; in 1874, 31,444*l.*; and the number of aided schools, 355, with 26,454 children on the rolls, in 1864; against 593, with 51,254, in 1874.

In crime the annual report of the convict establishments shows some augmentation, the number of newly sentenced men received during the year having risen (from 587 in 1873) to 690, leaving, after deaths and discharges, a total of 876 at the various stations on the 31st December 1874, or 22 more than at the close of the previous year.

The number sentenced for crimes against the person, however, was only 69, as against 90 in 1873, the increase being almost entirely under the head of theft.

This may probably be accounted for by the unfavourable seasons which prevailed over the greater part of the Colony, for the drought in the western districts and the floods in the eastern must have occasioned a good deal of distress among the improvident portion of the coloured population which chiefly furnishes the criminals.

Political Condition, Legislation, &c. &c.

The year in most respects was a quiet and uneventful one. The new Parliament elected at the close of 1873 gave a steady support throughout its session, which lasted from the 28th May to the 31st July, to the first responsible ministry, and Mr. Molteno and his colleagues were thus enabled to elaborate and carry through their extensive railway scheme and other measures designed for the development of the internal resources of the Colony.

A few more years of similar financial prosperity and political tranquility would admit of the accomplishment of other equally desirable improvements, and place the Cape beyond all risk of ever again retrograding, even in the event of bad seasons and reduced value of its products, into the disastrous condition to which it had sunk a few years ago.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY BARKLY,
Governor

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c.

CEYLON.

No. 17.

Governor The Right Honourable W. H. GREGORY to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon,
September 8, 1875.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of Ceylon for the year 1874, and to submit the following report on its contents:—

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue for 1874 was -	Rs. 13,243,288	(£1,241,558)
The expenditure for do. -	11,841,926	(£1,110,180)
Excess of revenue over expenditure - - -	1,401,361	(£131,378)

As compared with 1873, the revenue of 1874 shows an increase of Rs. 334,108.

The following are the principal items of increases and decreases:—

Arrears of Revenue.—Increase Rs. 42,284, owing to the instalments of the arrack farm, in the Central Province, due in December 1873, having been paid in January 1874.

Customs.—There has been a decrease, Rs. 142,652, on imports, owing partly to a diminished importation of grain consequent on the Indian famine, and partly to the collections of the last week of the year having been brought to account in January 1875. The sum of Rs. 46,446 appearing under the head of exports is the royalty on plumbago now payable at the port of shipment instead of at the pit's mouth under authority of Ordinance No. 21 of 1873.

Land Sales.—Show a decrease of Rs. 103,244 in waste lands, and Rs. 48,360 in cinnamon gardens. In the Western and North-western Provinces there was an increase in the sale of Crown lands of Rs. 113,810, but there was an apparent falling off in the Central Province of Rs. 198,761, which is owing not to a smaller extent of land being alienated than in the previous year, but to the balance of the purchase money of large tracts sold in December not having been brought to account till January 1875.

Land Revenue.—There is a decrease of Rs. 52,199 in the item of paddy, mainly caused by the failure of the harvest in the North-western and Northern Provinces. The return shows a decrease of Rs. 32,247 in royalty on plumbago; but in reality there is an increase of Rs. 14,000 from this source, which appears, as already stated, under the head of Customs Revenue.

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Rents.—There is an increase of Rs. 15,644 on tolls and bridges and canals, owing to the higher prices paid for the farms of 1874.

Licenses.—From a similar cause, there is an increase of Rs. 13,299 in the item arrack rum and toddy.

Stamps.—There is an increase of Rs. 27,110 in general stamps, and Rs. 10,898 in postage stamps.

Sale of Government Property.—There is a considerable increase in the item of Colonial stores, Rs. 123,593, which may be accounted for by the fact that there were large issues of stores in 1874, chiefly for public works, leading to increased receipts.

Reimbursement.—The increase of Rs. 10,654 in the item of repayment of expenses incurred on irrigation works is satisfactory evidence of the completion of a larger number of irrigation works.

Miscellaneous Receipts.—The large increase in the item of overpayments recovered, Rs. 310,585, is owing to a refund by the military authorities of Rs. 270,000 out of the contribution paid for the nine months ending March 1874 under the temporary arrangement sanctioned by the Secretary of State for War pending the final settlement of the amount this Colony is to be called upon to pay towards the military expenditure.

Pearl Fishery.—The fishery of the banks off Arippu in 1874 realised Rs. 101,199. No pearl fishery had been attempted since 1863. It is expected that another and very extensive fishery will take place in 1877.

The expenditure of 1874 was Rs. 11,841,926 (1,110,180*l.*), that of 1873 Rs. 11,762,585, showing an increase of Rs. 79,340.

The increase under the head *Establishments* amounts to Rs. 144,983. It is chiefly in the following departments:—Government Agent, North Central Province, Rs. 27,197. The creation of this Province in 1874 rendered it necessary to make additions to the establishment, which had hitherto been that of an Assistant Agent; whilst the transfer to the new Province of some of the districts formerly belonging to the Northern and Eastern Provinces caused a reduction in the establishments of those provinces to the amount of Rs. 20,698. There is an increase of Rs. 30,290 in the medical department, and of Rs. 55,253 in the police, caused by the re-organisation of those departments previously sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government. The increase of Rs. 21,251 in the railway department was owing to the maintenance and repair of the whole line of the Kandy Railway having devolved on the Government from July 1874, and on account of the additional service consequent on the opening of the Gampola extension.

Under the head of *Pensions* there is a decrease of Rs. 41,443, which is owing to there having been an exceptional item of Rs. 62,000 in 1873, on account of the commutation of Kandyan pensions, but on the other hand there is an increase of about Rs. 10,000, owing to payments in England in 1874 having been accounted for at 1*s.* 10½*d.* the rupee instead of 2*s.* the rupee

in 1873. The increase of Rs. 47,876 under the head of *Revenue Services* is due to a larger expenditure for collection and watching of salt in the Southern, Eastern, and Northern Provinces; to the expenses on account of the pearl fishery, amounting to Rs. 28,000, and to the provision for forest conservancy Rs. 18,000. There is an increase of Rs. 13,195 under the head of *Hospitals*, and Rs. 84,760 under *Police and Jails*. There has been a larger expenditure on account of *Roads, Streets, and Bridges* in 1874 than in 1873, the increase amounting to Rs. 279,354; whilst under *Works and Buildings* there is a decrease of Rs. 57,408. The decrease of Rs. 154,655 under the head *Miscellaneous* is thus explained by the Auditor General:—"In previous years the "expenditure under this head was largely swelled by the item "cost of remittances to England, arising from the rupee being "rated at 2*s*. From this year the rupee has been rated at its "intrinsic value of 1*s*. 10½*d*., whereby the loss on this account "in 1874 was only Rs. 638."

The increase of Rs. 58,068 in *Railway Services* is consequent on the extension of the branch line to Gampola, and to heavy repairs to the permanent way.

Assets and Liabilities.

3. The assets of the Colony on the 31st December 1874 amounted to Rs. 5,794,549 (543,239*l*.), the liabilities to Rs. 3,670,512 (344,110*l*.), showing an excess of assets over liabilities of Rs. 2,124,037 (199,129*l*.) Omitting from the statement of assets the sum of Rs. 500,000 on account of arrears of revenue outstanding, and Rs. 30,000, amount of surcharges outstanding, and deducting also from the statement of liabilities the item of Rs. 314,413 on account of drafts outstanding, the balance amounted to Rs. 1,898,450. This is subject to a further deduction on account of mint charges for the cent coins received from India in 1872, 1873, and 1874, amounting to Rs. 248,912, reducing the gross balance available for appropriation on the 31st December 1874 to Rs. 1,649,538, including the Rs. 500,000 held as a reserve under instructions from the Secretary of State. By an Ordinance subsequently passed, No. 2 of 1875, a further sum of Rs. 700,000 is charged to surplus balances for the construction of the Morotuwa Railway. Deducting this amount, there will still remain a balance of Rs. 949,538, or Rs. 449,578 in excess of the required reserve.

Imports and Exports.

4. The value of goods imported in 1874, exclusive of specie, was Rs. 46,646,863, showing an increase of Rs. 151,193 as compared with that of 1873, which amounted to Rs. 46,495,670. There was a decrease of Rs. 8,602,592 on the exports, the value for the two years having been—1873, Rs. 53,470,950; 1874, Rs. 44,868,358.

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Adding to these the specie imported and exported, the total value of the imports and exports of 1874 as compared with the preceding year stands thus :—

Imports.

1873 - - - -	Rs. 55,743,585
1874 - - - -	56,918,600

Exports.

1873 - - - -	Rs. 54,085,915
1874 - - - -	46,873,887

The total value of goods (exclusive of specie) imported and retained in the Colony during 1874 amounted to Rs. 42,016,725.

Imports, exclusive of specie -	Rs. 46,646,863
Deduct imports exported -	4,630,138
Goods retained -	42,016,725

The total value of specie imported and retained in the Island during 1874 amounted to Rs. 8,266,208.

Specie imported - -	Rs. 10,271,737
„ exported - -	2,005,529
Specie retained -	8,266,208

The total value, therefore, of goods and specie imported and retained in the Island during 1874 amounted to Rs. 50,282,933, as follows :—

Goods retained - - -	Rs. 42,016,725
Specie „ - - -	8,266,208
Goods and specie retained	50,282,933

The total value of Ceylon produce exported in 1874 amounted to Rs. 40,238,220.

Exports, exclusive of specie -	Rs. 44,868,358
Deduct imports exported -	4,630,138
Ceylon produce - -	40,238,220

5. I append the following extracts from the report of the Principal Collector of Customs, explanatory of the increases and decreases, and in the principal items of imports and exports :—

Imports.

" *Cotton Manufactures.*—Cotton, goods, thread, twist, and waste, show a total value of 8,707,963 rupees. Only a portion of the quantity represented by this amount has entered into home con-

sumption, and therefore not more than 268,055 rupees were collected as duty, and it is to be noted that in all of these articles the trade has not been satisfactory as compared with 1873, though better than in 1872."

"*Food Articles.*—In all the European articles of diet there has been large increases as compared with 1873. There has been a large decrease in sugar of 61,912 rupees, and in tea of 55,835 rupees. The only article imported from India showing an increase is curry stuffs, 87,161 rupees; while fish, dried and salted, has decreased by 95,256 rupees; grain of all sorts by 25,343 rupees; and potatoes by 25,323 rupees. With regard to grain, it may be noted that the importation of rice was not only smaller than in 1873, but less came into consumption. Thus the quantity entered for duly in 1874 was 5,444,396 bushels, against in 1873 5,718,160 bushels. The consumption was, however, in excess of the quantity entered in 1872, which was 5,319,482 bushels."

"*Malt Liquor.*—There is a decrease of value amounting to 41,769 rupees. Of 68,967 gallons imported, only 62,211 gallons were entered for duty."

"*Spirits.*—There is also a large decrease of 70,275 rupees in the value, and of 9,371 gallons of the importation of this article. The decrease was principally in brandy."

"Wines of all kinds show a large decrease of 6,549 gallons, and of 59,801 rupees in value."

Exports.

"*Coffee.*—In consultation with the Chamber of Commerce, the average value has been fixed for this year's calculations at 45 rupees per cwt. on plantation, and at 37 rupees and 50 cents per cwt. on native. In 1873 the value on the latter was taken at 40 rupees. But the diminished production of estates caused a decrease of 10,036,005 rupees as compared with 1873."

"*Cinnamon,* in quantity, shows a decrease of cwt. 255 and 3 lbs., or lbs. 28,563; and, in value, of 14,222 rupees."

"*Plumbago.*—Of the quantity shipped, viz., cwts. 149,938, a certain portion, viz., cwt. 94,914½, became liable to the royalty which by legislative enactment was levied at the Customs instead of at the pits from 1st April 1874, and the amount so recovered was Rs. 47,209 94. There was a small quantity, cwts. 300, imported from British India, but it would appear to have become absorbed with production of the Island, as no official notice of its separate exportation was given. But, altogether, the quantity exported fell short of that of 1873 by cwts. 24,058."

"Of the *Productions of the Cocoa-nut Tree* more favourable mention may be made than was given in last year's returns, for increases in quantity and value have to be recorded in the following items:—

	Quantity.	Value.
"Coir stuffs - -	cwts. 15,637	Rs. 115,927
Cocoanut oil - -	„ 31,207	„ 388,446."

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"*Arrack*, of which 173,468 gallons were exported, shows an increase of 49,044 gallons over 1873, and of 15,527½ gallons over 1872. But in *Copperah* there is a decrease of cwts. 5,099, value 2,451 rupees."

Public Works.

6. The total expenditure on public works during the past year amounted to Rs. 3,614,815; viz.,

	Rs.
Government money - - - -	2,787,698
Road Ordinance labour and private contributions	468,933
Establishments - - - -	358,184
	Rs. 3,614,815

7. In the year 1873 the expenditure was Rs. 3,178,424, showing an increase of Rs. 436,391 in 1874.

The expenditure is divided under the following heads :—

—	Government Money.	Road Ordinance Funds and Private Contributions.	TOTAL.
Works and Buildings.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
New works and buildings - - -	381,807	—	381,807
Alterations and additions to buildings -	70,798	—	70,798
Repairs to buildings - - - -	105,799	—	105,799
Road Streets, Bridges, and Canals.			
New roads - - - - -	91,428	169,781	261,209
Additions and improvements to roads - -	286,229	8,689	294,918
Upkeep of roads - - - -	1,135,956	287,875	1,423,831
New bridges - - - - -	225,337	—	225,337
Repair of bridges - - - -	75,328	2,588	77,916
Inland navigation - - - -	31,200	—	31,200
Irrigation Works.			
New works - - - - -	211,900	—	211,900
Upkeep works - - - -	23,466	—	23,466
Departmental Charges.			
Ferry boats - - - - -	4,581	—	4,581
General service - - - -	12,898	—	12,898
Miscellaneous - - - -	130,971	—	130,971
	2,787,698	468,933	3,256,631
Establishment - - -	- -	. -	358,184
		Rs.	3,614,815

8. The funds from which the expenditure has been met are as follows:—

	Rs.
Supply Bill - - - - -	2,299,863
First supplementary Supply Bill - -	224,802
Second ditto ditto - - -	825
Unexpected balances of previous years - -	449,783
Road Ordinance funds - - - -	226,403
Private contribution - - - -	242,529
Loan board funds - - -	35,873
Surplus funds, 1873 - - - -	134,737
	Rs. 3,614,815

Government Houses at Colombo, Kandy, and Nuwera Eliya.

9. The Director of Public Works reports that these buildings are in fair order. The Colonial Storekeeper reports that the furniture and equipment of the several Queen's houses are in good and serviceable order, except from wear and breakage inseparable from occupation and use.

Survey Department.

10. The amount realised by the sale of Crown lands in 1874 was higher than in any previous year, while the actual expenses of the Department for such surveys were less by Rs. 24,602 than in the year 1873. The Surveyor General explains that this result is chiefly attributable to the fact that a number of lots that were surveyed in previous years were sold in 1874.

11. The total number of lots alienated from the Crown during the year was 5,940, comprising 41,427 acres; and the total sum realised by land sales, exclusive of fees, amounted to Rs. 999,768. This sum exceeds by 41,622 rupees the highest limit before obtained, viz., that in 1873, when the sum of Rs. 958,146, exclusive of fees, was realised.

12. 3,979 lots of land were sold, containing in extent 32,089 acres, at an average rate of 31 rupees per acre, exclusive of survey fees, which amounted to 67,328 rupees.

13. Certificates were given for 1,961 lots, containing 9,338 acres, the survey fees on which realised 17,738 rupees.

14. The fees recovered on account of temple land surveys amounted to Rs. 4,226. The fees due on temple land title plans sent to the Commissioner amounted to Rs. 4,060, and those for tracings to Rs. 3,884.

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15. The following are the results of the sales in the different provinces:—

Provinces.	No. of Lots.	Extent.	Purchase Amount.	Average rate per acre.	Fees.
		Acres.	Rs.	Rs. Cts.	Rs.
Central - - - -	505	14,399	672,162	46 68	23,140
Western - - - -	2,158	12,232	195,977	16 2	28,021
Eastern - - - -	449	3,071	74,018	24 10	8,053
Southern - - - -	556	1,082	28,723	26 54	3,364
Northern - - -	157	416	7,281	17 50	2,548
North-western - - -	154	889	21,608	24 32	2,202
Total - -	3,979	32,089	999,769	31 0	67,328

16. The gross expenditure of the Department amounted to Rs. 275,562, of which Rs. 93,434 were expended on chena land surveys, railway surveys, meteorological observations, town and temple land surveys, irrigation surveys, and other miscellaneous work, leaving Rs. 182,127 as the expenditure on the ordinary work of the Department.

Railway.

17. Owing to numerous delays, caused chiefly by land slips, the section of line between Gampola and Nawalapitiya was not completed before December last, and it was opened for goods traffic on the 1st, and for passenger traffic on the 21st, of that month. The average open mileage in 1874 was 83 miles, against 82 in 1873.

18. The gross receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 2,425,560, viz., main line, Rs. 2,274,078, branch line Rs. 151,482; and the working expenses to Rs. 886,849, viz., main line Rs. 817,573, branch line Rs. 69,276; showing a profit in the year of Rs. 1,538,801. In 1873 the gross receipts were Rs. 2,384,504, which compared with the receipts in 1874 show an increase in the latter year of Rs. 41,056. In the working expenses in 1874 there is a slight decrease, Rs. 3,006, as compared with the expenditure of 1873, which amounted to Rs. 889,855.

19. The number of passengers in 1874 was 708,376, against 644,374 in 1873.

20. The tonnage of goods carried was 167,975, showing a decrease of 3,218 as compared with the tonnage in 1873, viz., 171,193. The short coffee crop of 1873–74 caused this decrease.

21. The total amount expended on the construction of the Nawalapitiya branch line to the 31st December 1874 was

Rs. 2,523,415. This amount was paid from the following sources:—

	Rs.
From general revenue - -	644,649
„ surplus funds - -	1,290,000
By sale of debentures - -	401,954
Pioneer pension fund - -	212,023
	Rs. 2,548,626

Legislation.

22. The following Ordinances were passed in the year 1874:—

No. 1. "To control recruiting in Ceylon for the service of Foreign States," enacted in accordance with the instructions of the Secretary of State.

No. 2 extends to the districts of Mannar and Mullaittiva in the Northern Province certain relaxations and modifications of the provisions of the Paddy Cultivation Ordinance of 1867 which were made by the Ordinance No. 2 of 1874 as respects the districts of Nuwerâkalawriya and Tamankaduwa in the North-Central Province.

No. 3 empowers the Government to extend by Proclamation to railways in existence, or which might afterwards be constructed, the provisions of the Ordinance No. 10 of 1865 relating to the railway between Colombo and Kandy and the rules made thereunder. The immediate necessity for the introduction of this Ordinance was the opening of the Nawalapitiya extension.

Nos. 4 and 5 provide for the improvement of the Colombo Harbour, and empower the Government to borrow the money required for this purpose, viz., 250,000*l.* from the Public Works Loan Commissioners in England, and 400,000*l.* by the issue of debentures.

No. 6 amends and consolidates the law relating to the construction, up-keep, and repair of branch roads and recovery of the sums assessed therefor.

No. 7. To amend the Administration of 'Justice Ordinance, 1868," requires district courts to try cases which the Queen's Advocate or Deputy Queen's Advocate shall bring or prosecute before such courts, except certain crimes and offences which are specified in the Schedule annexed to the Ordinance. It also extends the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to the correction of decisions of Police Courts on matters of fact as well as on matters of law, and, further, to the alteration of sentences imposed by Police Courts.

No. 8 was enacted in consequence of the inadequacy of the law as it stood to repress the crime of coffee stealing, which had so largely increased as to justify resort to exceptional legislation. The duration of the Ordinance is restricted to two years.

Nos. 9, 10, and 12 are the ordinary money bills. No. 9 makes final provision for the supplementary contingent charges for the year 1873; No. 10 provides for similar charges for 1874; and No. 12 for the contingent services of the year 1875.

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No. 11 establishes tolls on certain roads.

No. 13 authorises the Government to advance the municipalities of Galle and Kandy, by way of loan, moneys required by them for the construction of waterworks in those towns.

23. In addition to these Ordinances, three others were passed in the Session of 1874, which was extended to the commencement of the present year. They will be referred to in my report on the Blue Book for this year.

Public Health.

24. During the months of May, June, and July 1874 fever in an epidemic form prevailed in certain districts in the Western Province which are subject to annual visitations of fever after the south-west monsoon. Measures were taken by the Government to arrest, as far as possible, the progress of the disease.

25. The epidemic of fever in the Western Province was followed by dysentery, which broke out in an epidemic form in the Southern Province. Active measures were taken by the Government officers to check the disease by segregating the sick, ventilating the houses, and having the villages cleansed out.

26. There were 19 cases of cholera throughout the Island, of which 17 died. They were of a sporadic character, occurring at remote stations from each other.

27. About the close of the year choleric diarrhœa appeared in Colombo, with one or two fatal cases.

28. Of small-pox, 165 cases were reported, with only four deaths, three of which occurred among patients not protected by vaccination.

29. The admissions into the Government hospitals continue to increase, not owing, I believe, to the greater prevalence of sickness in the country, but owing partly to the increased accommodation afforded by the construction of new hospitals and the improvement and enlargement of existing ones, and to a greater appreciation of European medical treatment by the natives. The total number of admissions into the several Government hospitals during the year was 14,047, showing an increase of 1,494 over the number treated in 1873; the rate of mortality being 10 · 35 per cent. in 1874, against 10 · 18 in 1873. This does not include cases treated under the Cooly Medical Ordinance.

30. The total number of prisoners treated in the several jail hospitals was 3,454, with a mortality of 66, or 1 · 91 per cent., the figures being nearly the same as those of 1873, when 3,630 were admitted, of which 69 died, or 1 · 90 per cent.

Education.

31. *Government Schools.*—Fourteen new schools were opened and 12 were closed during the year, and the number of Government schools in operation at the end of the year was 243, giving instruction to 11,719 children, and showing an average attendance of 8,829. This exhibits an increase of two schools as compared with the number in existence in the previous year, and there is a corre-

	1873.	1874.
Government schools -	241	243
Pupils - - -	11,598	11,719
Average attendance -	8,946	8,829

sponding increase of 121 in the number of pupils. This would appear but slow progress in the cause of education without the explanation, that whenever practicable the Government school is withdrawn on the establishment of a school on the grant-in-aid principle, a system which is working with very satisfactory results in this Colony.

32. *Aided Schools.*—The number of new schools registered for grants-in-aid during the year 1874 was 82, and the total number presented for a grant during the year was 595. The number of children actually examined under the system of payments by results was 16,557. The number of children receiving instruction in these schools was 35,559. These results show an increase over the year 1873 of 67 schools and 2,965 children.

	1873.	1874.
Grant schools -	528	595
Pupils - -	32,594	35,559

33. The expenditure on account of education as compared with 1873 shows an increase of Rs. 23,515, the total amount expended during the year being Rs. 318,826.

34. The receipts in 1874, under the head of fees, &c., amounted to Rs. 23,253, being an increase of Rs. 277 as compared with the sum received in 1873.

35. Taking Government and grant schools together, the total number of schools and school children participating in the vote for public instruction in 1873 was 769 schools and 44,192 scholars; whilst in 1874 the numbers were 838 schools and 47,278 children.

36. The returns from the different missionary bodies show an increase of 99 in the number of schools supported by them, and of 1854 in the number of pupils. The following is an abstract of these schools:—

—	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils.
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel - -	182	6,734
Church Missionary Society - - - -	158	6,830
Wesleyan Missionary Society - - - -	173	8,894
Presbyterians - - - - - -	1	70
Baptist Missionary Society - - - -	47	2,544
American Missionary Society - - - -	114	6,115
Roman Catholic Missionary Society - -	207	13,262
Total - - -	882	44,449

37. The numbers in 1873 were 783 schools and 42,592 pupils.

38. The number of private schools in 1874 was 329, with an attendance of 9,929, showing a decrease as compared with 1873 of 64 schools and 2,006 pupils.

39. Prefixed to the Blue Book returns will be found a table giving a statistical view of the progress of the Colony for the years 1822 to 1874 inclusive, and an abstract of the principal statistical results for the years 1873 and 1874.

CEYLON.

40. In spite of considerable sickness and the distress caused by an insufficiency of rainfall over a large portion of the northern districts, the past year denotes considerable and manifest progress throughout the Colony. A large traffic has already sprung up on the road between Badulla and Batticaloa, only recently completed, and which it was confidently asserted would scarcely ever be indented by a cart wheel. I am informed that carts are now passing over it at the rate of 300 a month, and this traffic will be much increased by the construction of a short road which I intend to make this year, and which will communicate with a bay to the north of Batticaloa, where ships can load and unload at all seasons. The great arterial roads to Trincomalee and Jaffna are rapidly progressing; the first will be completed in a few months, and the second has already had all the formidable rivers (which formerly forbade traffic in wet seasons) bridged. It is not long since this fine road intersected a jungle, inhabited chiefly by wild beasts; now thriving villages, bazaars, wells, resting houses for natives and Europeans are being constructed along it. Two very important roads to further the transmission of salt from the places of production, Puttalam and Hambantota, into the interior are now in hand, and there is no doubt that an immediate increase in the consumption of that article, which is advancing, will be the result. I have recently returned from a tour of inspection in the Western Province. I had gone over the same ground about two years and a half ago, and the change for the better even in that short period was very remarkable. All along the line of road leaf-roofed hovels were being replaced by good substantial tiled houses, and the well-fed appearance of the villagers was gratifying.

41. The policy so warmly approved of by your Lordship of providing the villagers with sluices where they repair their tanks by their own labour is being steadily and successfully carried out in the North-Central Province, where there will be 20 village tanks with substantial masonry sluices completed by the new year. Considering that the scheme has been only recently set on foot this is satisfactory, and if I can but get proper supervision I hope largely to increase our operations next year. As yet I have been unable even to commence a single irrigation work in the Northern Province, to meet the requirements of the condition of which Province Ordinance No. 2 of 1874 was passed. I have not been able to procure the necessary staff, nor have I as yet obtained a vote from the Legislative Council for the construction of the necessary buildings at the new station of Vavonia Velan Colum. I regret there should be time lost in commencing works which I consider may be called of vital necessity, and I shall address to your Lordship a separate Despatch on this subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. GREGORY.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

HONG KONG.

No. 18.

Governor Sir A. E. KENNEDY, K.C.M.G., C.B., to
The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Hong Kong,
June 14, 1875.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Colony for 1874, together with the following report thereon:—

Revenue and Expenditure.

No alteration having been made in the imposts from which the revenue of the Colony was to be derived, the amount collected in 1874 was in close accord with 1873, the revenue of the former having reached the sum of $854,799 91 (178,083*l.* 6*s.* 3½*d.*) as against $847,324 35 (176,525*l.* 18*s.* 1½*d.*) in the latter.

In respect to postages and stamps there was, I regret to point out, a falling off of $12,548 73 (2,614*l.* 6*s.* 4½*d.*), but as this was more than compensated by an increase of $18,788 59 (3,914*l.* 5*s.* 9½*d.*) under miscellaneous receipts, land revenue, and rents, and as greater buoyancy is being already exhibited with regard to stamp dues; the past revenue may be viewed with satisfaction and the future for 1875 without apprehension.

In reference to the expenditure of the past year it amounted to the sum of $921,479 54 (191,974*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*) and was consequently in excess of the preceding year to the extent of $131,605 12 (27,417*l.*). This great increase was chiefly under the head of works and buildings for typhoon repairs, hospital site, post office at Shanghai, markets at Wanchai and Syingpoon, water-works, lighthouses; and it is a source of much satisfaction to find that notwithstanding this heavy outlay on works of great importance and the unlooked for charges caused by the typhoon, there was in the Treasury on the 31st December 1874 an excess of assets over liabilities of $156,177 18 (32,536*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*).

Legislation.

The seven Ordinances passed in 1874 were:—

No. 1. To give the governor the powers vested in the Board of Trade, by sections 12 and 13 of the Merchant Shipping Act, of ordering the survey of any ship which was considered defective in hull, equipment, or machinery, or by reason of overloading or improper loading.

No. 2. To provide a pension of 100*l.* per annum to Mr. Simpson, late a sorter in the General Post Office.

No. 3. To consolidate the Ordinances relating to Chinese passenger ships and the conveyance of Chinese emigrants.

No. 4. To authorise the appropriation of a supplementary sum not exceeding $32,000 to defray the charges of 1873.

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No. 5. To repeal No. 3 and re-enact its provisions with corrections of certain verbal errors and omissions pointed out by the Colonial Office.

No. 6. To apply a sum not exceeding $730,000 to the public service of the year 1875.

No. 7. To control recruiting in the Colony for the service of foreign states.

Education.

The schools reported in the Blue Book are as follows:—

—	—	Scholars.	Cost.	—
			$	£ s. d.
1	Central Government school, Victoria	528	9,672 94	2,015 3 11
15	Village Government schools -	1,054	3,979	828 19 2
14	Village schools aided by Government	349	933 38	194 9 1
9	Denominational schools receiving Government aid - - -	632	1,391 50	289 17 11
39		2,563	15,976 82	3,328 10 1

In the Government schools, properly so called, there was an increase of 93 scholars, and of 190 in the schools receiving grants in aid.

In attendance, too, there was a marked increase, the minimum being 126 in advance of 1873, which is all the more satisfactory considering that the typhoon of September was at one time supposed to have disorganised most of the village schools for the remainder of the year. The break in the attendance was, however, of comparatively short duration, as where the school-houses were demolished others were rented within a fortnight by Mr. Stewart, who gave further evidence on this occasion of the untiring zeal and ability with which he presides over the educational arrangements of the Colony.

It will be seen by his report that the central school has more than maintained its position; that the study of geography, which is considered an innovation by the Chinese masters, was progressing satisfactorily at the village schools, and would be supplemented by arithmetic as soon as suitable books can be prepared, and that some of the village schools aided by Government grants were maintaining a high place in the order of efficiency. All this is very satisfactory. Mr. Stewart again draws attention to the defective state of the central school building, which he truthfully characterises "as being inadequate as regards size, insecure as 'regards foundations, and unhealthy as regards ventilation."

In respect to the grant in aid schools he reports that they have increased from six to nine, with a consequent rise in scholars from 442 to 632, that the scheme continues to give satisfaction, and that no practical difficulties have arisen in the working of it; the managers who had grants during the first year of its operation

speaking favourably of the good which had accrued from it to their schools.

As the scheme under which these schools receive grants in aid was fully reported upon in the Blue Book of 1873, it is scarce necessary perhaps to repeat here that its purport is:—"That all "schools which devote four hours a day to secular instruction "may devote the other school hours to religious instruction, and "that for the actual results of the secular instruction, as ascertained "by examination, Government allows a certain fixed sum for "each scholar who reaches a certain standard of scholarship."

Shipping and Trade.

The Harbour Master's Returns show a decrease of 654,764 in the tonnage of vessels arriving and departing, being a falling off of 63·4 per cent. of native, and 36·6 of foreign tonnage.

As regards native vessels, this is due to some extent to the loss of 157 junks during the disastrous typhoon of September last, and to the diminished trade to the West Coast, as arising from the increased duties claimed at the adjacent Chinese customs in excess of the tariff, but there is little doubt that the great decrease is to be attributed to the displacement of this class of vessel by steamers to and from Macao, Canton, Amoy, Swatow, and Formosa, and not to any diminution of trade between Hong Kong and those ports.

The seemingly decreased tonnage, too, of foreign shipping is no correct indication of the state of trade, as 38 per cent. of the vessels arriving at this port were steamers, and it is well known that the carrying capacity of the larger class is much in excess of registered tonnage.

Hong Kong being a free port the import and exports cannot be given with any degree of accuracy, but some opinion can be formed of the general state of trade from the following table of imports from Manchester during the last five years:—

	Cotton Yarns per Bale.	Cotton per Yard.
1870 -	- 26,556 -	- 75,673,200
1871 -	- 25,020 -	- 111,643,200
1872 -	- 17,148 -	- 81,400,800
1873 -	- 24,384 -	- 99,828,000
1874 -	- 36,252 -	- 117,731,256

Police and Gaol.

The police returns show a decrease of crime in 1874 as compared with the preceding year of 22·96 per cent. on all cases reported, or of 11·47 per cent. in serious crimes and 25·45 in minor offences, and the criminal statistics at page 170 of the Blue Book, as well as the gaol returns, not only support these figures, but show that the decrease has been especially marked since 1872.

HONG KONG.

During that year the cases taken before the summary court numbered 8,708, and the daily average of prisoners in gaol was 541, but in 1873 when the system of penal labour and diet in gaol was exchanged for the practice which had previously existed of employing the prisoners on public works about the town, there was a great decrease, and in 1874 the cases at the summary court fell to 6,618, whilst the daily average of prisoners was reduced to 350.

Improved police administration had, doubtless, considerable influence in thus diminishing the number of prisoners, but there is little doubt that to the deterrent effect of the altered system of gaol discipline we chiefly have the results which have been obtained, doubtless, by this withdrawal of prison labour from the roads; the outlay under this head has been increased, but the saving at the gaol fully compensates the Colony for this, and we may therefore congratulate ourselves on the attainment of so great a benefit, as the diminution of crime without any pecuniary sacrifice whatsoever.

I observe that in paragraph 4 of his report the captain superintendent of police draws attention to the public execution of criminals, and deprecates a continuance of the practice. In consequence I think it right to point out that in 1868 Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell, Sir Julian Pauncefote, Mr. Rennie, and myself fully considered the question in council, and came to the conclusion "that any change in the mode of carrying out capital "sentences appeared uncalled for by any local necessity and was "inexpedient."

Post Office.

The statements submitted in the Postmaster General's Report show a decrease of $5,688 97 in the gross revenue of 1874 as compared with that of 1873, but it is satisfactory to observe that notwithstanding the falling off the postal revenue of 1874 has exceeded the expenditure by $29,383 36 (6,121*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*).

The events of interest which have taken place in the postal service during 1874 are as follows:—

1st. The whole of the postal agencies in Japan and China have been thoroughly inspected.

2ndly. The Government of Queensland having established a mail service between Singapore and Brisbane the correspondence for that Colony and New South Wales is now sent viâ Singapore and Torres Straits, but all letters to the other Australian Colonies are still forwarded viâ Galle.

3rdly. No less than six steamers carrying mails have been lost during the past year, viz.:—

The French steamer "Nil," bound to Japan with local and home mails.

The United States packet "Japan," with mails from America and Japan to Hong Kong.

The private steamers "Sunfoo" and "Albany," with local mails from the Straits and Manilla.

The steamers "Mongal" and "Visayas," with Hong Kong mails for Yokohama and Manilla respectively. HONG KONG.

4thly. The average time occupied in conveying the mails was less in 1874 than 1873 by both the English and French packets; the shortest time in which a mail was delivered in Hong Kong from London by British packet viâ Brindisi, being 35 days as against 38 days by French steamer viâ Marseilles. In respect to the homeward mails there was a gain of three days in the shortest French service and an equal loss by the British.

Public Works.

The expenditure on public works has been considerable, amounting to 36,103*l.*, and the energies of the surveyor general have been well taxed in repairing the damages done to buildings and roads by the typhoon. In consequence of the heavy outlay on such account many important works have been necessarily postponed, but the site of the new hospital is ready. The harbour master's office at Aberdeen has been finished. The efficiency of the waterworks has been greatly increased by new piping, and the public gardens and plantations have been maintained and extended with the prospect of future advantage to the salubrity of the Colony.

Emigration.

Although emigration is not from but through the Colony, it may nevertheless be desirable to draw attention to the large number of Chinese who are voluntarily expatriating themselves with a view to the improvement of their condition elsewhere. I may mention, therefore, that during the past year 10,284 Chinese embarked here for Bangkok and the Straits Settlements, 17,299 for the United States, 1,332 for the Australian Colonies, and 2,658 for Manilla, and that already the emigration of 1875 has been of increasing magnitude. It is under such circumstances very satisfactory to find from the harbour master's report that no accidents have occurred to any of the vessels carrying emigrants, and that owing, doubtless, to the care taken in the selection of the Chinese surgeons the health of the passengers has been well secured.

Health.

The report given by the Colonial surgeon of the health of the Colony is very satisfactory, as showing that the admissions to hospital of patients generally, of the troops, and of the police were less than in 1873, even though that year compared favourably with previous years, that the mortality was less, and that the percentage of deaths amongst the foreign residents was 2·85, or somewhat less than the average of the last 10 years.

It will also be seen from this officer's report that the typhoon of September last put the finishing stroke to the old hospital, which suffered so severely that the patients were of necessity

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removed to the lock hospital, where they remained until temporary accommodation could be prepared elsewhere.

The site for the new hospital is prepared and the building will be proceeded with as soon as the plans are returned to the Colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. Gardiner Austin,
Administrator.

The Right Hon. The Earl of Carnarvon,
Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State,
&c. &c. &c.

Mauritius.

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No. 19.

Governor Sir Arthur Phayre, K,C.S.I., C.B., to The Earl of Carnarvon.

My Lord, Mauritius, September 13, 1875.

I have the honour to submit the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1874, together with my report thereon.

A report dated the 19th of May last, on the Seychelles Islands for the same period by the Chief Civil Commissioner of that dependency, is also enclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. W. Phayre.

The Right Hon. The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Report on the Mauritius Blue Book for 1874.

Taxation.

1. A few changes were made during the year in the rates of taxation. One of the principal sources of income is licenses on professions, trades, and callings. The law regulating these was amended, the amounts, payable being in some instances raised, in others reduced. In a few cases, that of booksellers for instance, the possession of a license was no longer made obligatory. A slight reduction was made in quay dues. Ordinance No. 13 of 1874 repealed the laws under which special duties of excise and customs were levied for sanitary purposes, and re-imposed them with slight variations for general purposes. No other alterations in taxation were made during the year.

Receipts and Expenditure.

2. The revenue for the past two years and the average receipts for the precedings ten years have been as follows, omitting fractions :—

	Average for 10 years ending 31st December.		
	1872.	1873.	1874.
	£	£	£
1. Customs	200,511	220,782	222,352
2. Harbour dues	23,411	25,055	26,666
3. Land sales, rents, &c.	4,063	8,559	4,444
4. Registration and mortgage dues	25,746	26,434	22,058
5. Licenses and permits	170,156	180,305	199,173
6. Stamps	8,928	10,814	11,497
7. Taxes	15,199	13,902	13,864
8. Postage	6,154	4,895	5,206
9. Fines, forfeitures, and fees of Court	15,806	12,143	14,402
10. Fees of office	8,576	6,582	5,887
11. Sale of Government property	1,244	1,933	3,425
12. Reimbursements	23,394	25,909	15,876
13. Miscellaneous	2,620	3,511	21,232
Special receipts	195		
14. Interest	23,028	21,278	25,217
15. Receipts by General Board of Health and Poor Law Commission	- -	- -	498
16. Railway and telegraphs *	77,062	127,979	128,333
Total	606,093	690,081	720,130

3. The year under review has not been a favourable one, yet the principal heads of revenue, customs, licenses, and permits show an increase. This, however, is chiefly an apparent, not a real increase, for in the years previous to 1874 and until the 21st October of that year, special customs, duties, and taxes, were levied for sanitary and poor law purposes, the amount collected whereby was not included in the revenue. But in 1874, by Ordinance No. 13 of that year, the whole of these special duties, as far as regards sanitary purposes and part of those relating to poor law revenue, were consolidated with general revenue. The receipts from customs, licenses, and permits for the last two and a half months of the year were consequently increased by an amount which may be approximately stated at 13,430*l.* 4*s.* The decrease in registration and mortgage dues results chiefly from the check to the transfer of immovable property, while a large portion of the increase under licenses and permits results from a greater quantity of spirits paying duty and a larger number of licenses for retail spirits having been taken out in 1874.

5. The increase in postage is satisfactory, but may be regarded as a casual extension. The miscellaneous and special receipts are largely increased, from 3,511*l.* to 21,232*l.*

* The average of the revenue for the railway and telegraph is for 9 years only, as the railway was only opened in 1864.

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6. The expenditure for the year and for the previous year, with the average for ten years, were as follows:—

	Average for 10 years ending 1872.		
	1872.	1873.	1874.
	£	£	£
1. Establishments fixed and temporary, withallowances	237,892	228,592	228,864
2. Pensions	14,308	15,264	14,140
3. Revenue services	9,582	8,082	9,160
4. Administration of justice	8,121	9,040	11,752
5. Ecclesiastical	2,362	2,651	3,040
6. Charitable allowances	107	70	401
7. Education	5,842	5,269	5,764
8. Hospitals	10,050	10,589	10,783
9. Police and gaols	6,011	8,187	7,604
10. Rent	5,326	6,211	6,610
11. Transport	2,656	2,271	1,952
12. Mails	21,677	5,421	5,419
13. Works and buildings	21,192	20,306	19,010
14. Roads and bridges	19,179	9,763	12,977
15. Miscellaneous	9,144	23,332	50,192
16. Interest	12,980	16,731	20,222
17. Civil stores	33,083	24,843	33,107
18. Military	35,228	22,593	20,653
19. Quays, &c.	11,366	12,833	16,890
20. Immigration	16,782	14,042	8,810
21. Drawback and refund of duties	4,611	9,949	7,802
22. Quarantine	426	942	1,216
23. Debenture debt	77,797	93,424	81,649
24. Railway working department	59,107	106,705	126,648
25. General Board of Health	Accounted for separately in these years.		22,398
Totals	624,829	657,110	727,063

7. The expenditure exceeded the income by 6,933*l.*, and was greater in 1874 than in the previous year by nearly 70,000*l.* This increase is in great part occasioned by writing off during the year a sum of 28,000*l.*, which was transferred to credit of savings bank to make good irrecoverable loans, defalcations, and purchases of land made, to the extent of that amount in previous years. There is also included an increase of nearly 20,000*l.* in railway expenditure by the purchase of two locomotives and the the cost of new works. The expenditure of the Board of Health from October 21 to the end of the year to the amount of 22,300*l.* is now for the first time included in the accounts of the general expenditure. There must also be added a contribution of 6,000*l.* to the Poor Law Commission in compensation of special duties which were taken away from that body by Ordinance 13 of 1874, before alluded to.

8. In addition to the expenditure charged to the year a sum of 34,952*l.* was written off on account of irrecoverable assets, some of which had been barred by prescription of 30 years and more. This sum was struck out from the available assets of the Colony. with the sanction of the Council of Government, as has already been reported in detail.

9. The excess of expenditure over the receipts being 6,933*l.* will be met by available assets. MAURITIUS.

Local Revenues.

10. The revenue of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis amounted to - - - - £ 40,826
The expenditure - - - - 38,754

Leaving a balance in favour of the Corporation of 2,172

11. The Municipal Corporation did not contract any fresh loans, and no part of its debt fell due during the year.

12. The General Board of Health ceased by Ordinance No. 13 of 1874 to possess any separate revenue from October 21. The special taxes previously levied for sanitary purposes were thenceforward consolidated with the regular customs and excise duties and carried to general revenue. The revenue of the board to the 20th October was 23,697*l.*, and the expenditure 28,484*l.* This sum does not include 20,752*l.* paid in England for water pipes ordered by the board. The total expenditure of the General Board of Health during the year amounted to 49,236*l.* That of the Local Board of Port Louis, which ceased to exist as a separate corporation at the end of the year, was 33,043*l.* The total expenditure for sanitary objects was therefore 82,279*l.*

13. The revenue of the Poor Law Commission amounted to - - - - - - £ 33,031
And the expenditure to - - - - 31,926

Leaving a balance in favour of the Commission of 1,105

14. There was also a large debt due to the Government at the end of the year for treatment of paupers in the civil hospital and lunatic asylum. This debt has since been taken over by Government.

Assets and Liabilities.

15. These consist of funds in the custody of the Commissioners of Currency, the manager of the savings bank, and the curatelle, the amount in the treasury proper, and the railway construction account. The Commissioners of Currency had assets exceeding their liabilities by a sum of 10,920*l.* This surplus is intended to cover any depreciation in the value of the securities held by them. The savings bank, with liabilities amounting to 250,640*l.*, had that amount covered by cash balances and investments. The curatelle had its balances out on loan, and 9,906*l.* in cash. The treasury had apparent assets to the amount of 150,245*l.* beyond its liabilities, but by excluding all sums due to Government and not recoverable, the real assets amounted at the end of 1874 to 43,645*l.*

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16. The public debts of the Colony at the end of 1874 consisted of (1) the Government debenture account, (2) the debenture debt of the Poor Law Commission, (3) the debt of the late Local Board of Health to the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis, and (4) the debenture debt of the Municipal Corporation, the Government debenture debt on account of the Mauritius railway, amounted to 900,000*l.* Of this 300,000*l.* is payable in 1878. The sinking fund amounted at the end of 1874 to 113,828*l.* The debenture debt of the Poor Law Commission was 18,250*l.*, and that of the Local Board of Health 14,311*l.* Both now will be paid by Government. The debenture debt of the Municipal Corporation amounted to 130,640*l.* Of this the sum of 8,700*l.* is payable in the year 1881, and the rest at different periods between that time and 1889.

17. The reserve funds of the Municipal Corporation at the end of 1874 amounted to 4,200*l.*

Military Expenditure.

18. The military expenditure for the year amounted to 20,741*l.* The number of troops present in the Colony during the last month of the year was:

Staff, &c. - - - - - -	19
Artillery officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates	88
Infantry officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates	344
Total -	451

Public Works.

19. The work on buildings during the year consisted in commencing, carrying on, or finishing, the main or subsidiary buildings of various edifices for the Government service. Those which chiefly occupied the department during the year were school-houses and the Royal College, the Reformatory, the Orphan Asylum, the Central Lunatic Asylum, the Observatory, and a court-house at Flaeq. The sums expended on these amounted to 7,644*l.*

20. For the annual repairs to the Royal College, to schools, to court-houses, prisons, hospitals, police stations, quarantine buildings, lighthouses, 11,148*l.* was expended. Repairing hurricane damages to all buildings cost 1,036*l.*

21. Mauritius is well supplied with main roads. Branch roads still remain to be built in a few remote parts of the island. These are being gradually constructed. During the year new roads, bridges, canals, and alterations cost 2,118*l.*

22. Maintenance of roads and bridges, including labour, hospitals, and medical attendance to workmen amounted to 11,340*l.* The repair of hurricane damages to roads cost 574*l.* The total amount, therefore, expended on public works, not including railway and telegraph lines, omitting fractions, amounted to 32,876*l.* This amount does not include works for sanitary purposes executed

under the orders of the General and Local Boards of Health. The more extensive of these were carried out for the improvement of the city of Port Louis, and involved an expenditure of 27,000*l.*

Railways and Telegraph

23. There are two lines of railway, each of which is single. The first or northern line, leaving Port Louis, runs north-east to Poudre D'Or, and circling round to the east coast proceeds southerly to Flacq, and terminates at Grand River, south-east. It has a length of 30 miles. The second or Midland, leaving Port Louis at the same station as the Northern line, and having rails continuous with it, runs across the island in a south-east direction, and terminates at Mahebourg, also on the east coast. It has a length of 35 miles.

24. The following is the return of receipts and expenses for the year under review, and for the preceding year :—

	1874.			1873.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Gross receipts - - - -	128,431	0	0	129,223	0	0
Working and contingent expenses - -	109,648	0	0	97,039	0	0
Surplus - -	18,790	0	0	32,184	0	0

This result is not satisfactory. Like many other losses which have to be borne, this is traced to the fatal hurricane of March. Owing to the short crop of sugar, 21,313 tons less than in 1873 were conveyed, representing a loss in receipts of 7,110*l.*; and the damage done to the line rendered necessary an expenditure of 5,518*l.* for repairs and alterations.

25. In the expenditure, it must be added, was also included the sum of 7,689*l.* for three new locomotive engines.

26. The telegraphic wires, which are continuous to the railway are under the general direction of the engineer and manager, and directly of a special superintendent.

27. During the year the train-signalling messages and railway service messages numbered 79,016. The messages for the various departments of Government numbered 983, and those sent by private persons, for which alone a cash payment is made, amounted to 8,836*l.*

28. The total expenditure for the year, including establishments, amounted to 1,242*l.*

29. The cash receipts for messages sent by private persons amounted to 654*l.* The cost of messages sent by Government departments on the public service, for which no payment is made, amounted to 75*l.*

30. During the year a short branch telegraph line was made, to connect the new astronomical observatory at Pamplemousses with the Signal Mountain at Port Louis. By this means the time-

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ball on that mountain is dropped. The approach of hurricanes and other observations of importance are also announced, as already mentioned, in another section of this report.

Establishments.

31. The following statement shows the expenditure for the ten years ending 1874:—

Year.	Salaries.	Allowances and Contingencies	Total.
	£	£	£
1865	213,277	30,998	244,275
1866	222,456	34,722	257,178
1867	215,762	28,607	244,349
1868	211,627	28,505	240,132
1869	208,883	25,721	234,604
1870	206,365	28,207	234,572
1871	208,039	27,903	235,942
1872	205,144	24,603	229,747
1873	204,981	23,611	228,592
1874	204,750	24,114	228,864

32. The disbursements for establishments have been included in the table of general expenditure; but the detailed statement is here given for the sake of ready comparison. There is a slight increase in the amount disbursed during 1874, on account of allowances and contingencies; but care is being taken to reduce these items, with due regard to the efficiency of the public service.

Population.

33. A census of Mauritius was made in 1871. The numbers of the resident population, that is, not including in the military or those on board ship in the harbours of Mauritius, was then found to be—

Males - - -	193,575
Females - - -	122,467
Total -	316,042

Since then the Registrar-General has made annually an estimate of the population, based on the returns he receives from the Civil Status Officers of births and death; and also on the arrivals and departures by sea, as reported.

34. The population is divided into two classes, Indian and General. On the 31st of December the estimated numbers in Mauritius were:—

Indian.

Males - - -	150,008	
Females - - -	83,309	
		233,317

General.

Males - - -	56,071	
Females - - -	49,983	
		106,054
Total - -		339,371

For the sake of comparison the numbers on 31st December 1873 are here given:—

Indian.

Males - - -	147,172	
Females - - -	80,852	
		228,024

General.

Males - - -	54,353	
Females - - -	49,405	
		103,758
Total - -		331,782

35. Thus the increase in 1874 was:—

Indian Population.

Males - - -	1·9 per cent.
Females - - -	3·0 per cent.

General Population.

Males - - -	3·1 per cent.
Females - - -	1·1 per cent.

36. The death rate of the general population was 32·7 per 1,000. That of the Indian population, 23 per 1,000. In 1873 it was 41 and 30 respectively.

37. The number of children born alive and registered was 11,984, of which 6,073 were boys and 5,911 girls. The proportion of births to the general female population was 83 per 1,000; to the Indian female population, 93 per 1,000.

38. Ten thousand and nineteen deaths among the resident population were registered. Of these there were 1,820 male and 1,650 female deaths among the general population; and 3,989 male and 2,560 female deaths among the Indian population. The deaths of children under five years of age form 39·2 per cent. of the total mortality.

39. It is to be noted that the figures given above do not include the population of Rodrigues nor of Seychelles islands.

Immigration.

40. Immigration of labourers from India to Mauritius is a subject of deep importance to the Colony.

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41. The number actually landed at the Depôt in Port Louis during the year was—

Men - - - - -	4,156
Women - - - -	1,718
Boys - - - - -	662
Girls - - - -	516
Total - -	7,052

42. They arrived in 18 ships from Calcutta and Madras; 630 of these had been in Mauritius before.

43. The sanitary condition of the immigrants was very satisfactory.

44. The total number of Indian emigrants from Mauritius who returned to their country was—

Males - - - -	2,874
Females - - - -	1,201
Total - -	4,075

This number includes 445 males and 422 females born in the island.

45. The amount of money in cash or drafts declared by the above emigrants as being taken with them was 65,495*l.* But 455 men stated they had no money.

46. Of those who embarked, 513 had their passages paid by Government under existing rules; and 3,562 paid their own passages. The cost of return passages was to—

	£	s.	d.
Calcutta - - - - -	2	15	0
Madras - - - - -	2	10	0
Bombay - - - - -	3	0	0

47. The amount of money remitted to India through the Protector of Immigrants during the year was 15,523*l.*

48. The number of Indian immigrants in the Colony on the last day of the year was—

Males - - - - -	107,758
Females - - - - -	45,103
Total - -	152,861

49. The births among Indian immigrants during the year was 6,966.

50. During the year, 63,137 labourers, whose original term of agreement for service had expired, made new engagements for labour. Of these, 40,214 re-engaged with the same employers. Four-fifths of these re-engagements were for periods not exceeding one year. The number of Indians born in the island who engaged for labour in 1874 was 6,310, being more than double the number of that class that so engaged in 1870.

51. The number of suicides among Indians in Mauritius is still very large. In the past year it was 49. Of these, 7 were by females. The reasons assigned for suicides are chiefly bad health, but the subject has not been clearly elucidated.

52. The mortality of Indians on sugar estates during the year was, as nearly as can be discovered from the returns, 28 per thousand. This is about 5 per cent. less than the death rate of the general population, which, of course, includes the city of Port Louis.

53. The amount of deposits in the Government Savings Bank held by Indians at the end of 1874 was 125,425*l.*

54. The number of Indians convicted under the Labour Laws in 1874 for refusing to work, unlawful absence, desertion, and such like, was 4,473, against 4,073 in the previous year. The number of convictions of employers on the complaint of Indian immigrants for non-payment of wages, breach of ration rules, and so on, was 1,979, against 1,623 in the previous year.

Education.

55. Primary instruction in Mauritius is supported by Government, through the agency of two classes of schools:—

(1.) Those entirely under Government control;

(2.) Those assisted by annual grants of money.

56. The pupils of these schools consist for the most part of two classes of the inhabitants; those of African Creole descent and those of Indian birth or descent. The Superintendent of Schools, in his Annual Report, remarks, "There is no appreciable difference "in the status of the pupils; a large proportion of the children "are either orphans or the offspring of parents in very necessitous "circumstances."

57. The average number of children on the books of Government schools at the close of the year, which fairly represents the average number for the whole year, was as follows:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
On the books - - - -	4,118	1,249	5,367
Average attendance - - -	2,575	740	3,315

Of these pupils an approximate estimate shows that not more than 20 per cent. were of Indian birth and origin. But this is a considerable increase on previous years. The rest were Creoles, principally of African descent.

58. In the Creole schools the English and French languages are taught. In schools established for the Indian population, of which there were 18 in operation during the year, English and one Indian language are taught. The superintendent remarks, "Men to teach, not means, are wanted. Neither high salaries "nor the frequent appeals to the managers of educational insti-

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"tutes in India and Ceylon have, up to the present, proved "sufficiently strong to induce trained teachers to quit their native "land for the sphere of usefulness which Mauritius offers. "Wherein lies this great difficulty? Chiefly in the multiplicity "of dialect."

59. The instruction of Indian children in Government schools is therefore defective, and to establish a thoroughly efficient plan will be a work of difficulty. A collateral branch for training Indians as teachers has now been established in the Creole Normal School, but the difficulty of language is great. There are now three sections, Hindustani, Hindi, and Tamil; and one for Bengali will probably be required.

60. In Government schools the clergy are admitted to instruct those pupils, whose parents desire it, in their religious duties.

61. The amount received for school fees during the year was 862*l.* In the grant-in-aid schools the following returns have been rendered, but boys and girls are not shown separately for 1874:—

Average number on the books - - -	2,734
Average attendance - - - -	1,816

62. There are denominational schools, of which, in 1874, 30 were under Roman Catholic managers, 12 under Church of England, and two Independent. Each school received an annual grant, varying in amount according to circumstances from 36*l.* to 48*l.* In the latter part of the year revised conditions were passed, under which such grants will in future be made. They had not been brought into operation when the year closed.

63. The superintendent remarks that ex-pupils of Government schools are to be found in all conditions of employ. Of late years the greater number have adopted some trade or handicraft.

64. The total amount of expenditure on education during the year amounted to 5,764*l.*

Criminal Justice.

65. The report on crime was submitted by the Procureur and Advocate-General.

66. There has been a considerable increase in the number of criminal cases brought before the courts during the year. The following table exhibits the numbers of such cases prosecuted during the two past years.

OFFENCES brought before the Courts.

Courts.	1873.	1874.
Supreme Court - - - -	90	110
District courts - - - -	18,717	20,756
Stipendiary courts - - - -	9,834	12,011
Total - -	28,641	32,877

The nature of the offences tried before the Supreme Court in 1874 will be seen from the following statement. The races of the prisoners charged in each case are shown separately:—

OFFENCES tried at the Assizes in 1874.

Offences.	Indian Population.	Descendants of ex-apprentice Population.	Other Creoles.	Chinese.	Arabs.	Total.
Murder - - -	8	—	2	—	—	10
Manslaughter - -	4	—	—	—	—	4
Concealment of birth -	1	—	1	—	—	2
Rape - - -	—	—	3	—	—	3
Other offences against the person - -	25	11	2	1	—	39
Malicious injuries to property - -	2	—	—	—	—	2
Robbery with violence -	27	10	—	1	—	38
Other offences against property - -	2	2	1	—	1	6
Miscellaneous offences -	6	—	—	—	—	6
	75	23	9	2	1	110

In 92 of the above cases the persons charged were convicted; in 18 they were acquitted.

67. The Indian population furnishes nearly three-fourths of the criminals, while their members are as 2·2 to 1 of the rest of the population. The African Creoles, from the greater difficulty of finding employment, consequent on the commercial depression of the Colony and the arrival of Chinese artizans and petty traders, appear to have been thrown out of work. A large number of that class of the population were convicted of house-breaking.

68. The district courts in Mauritius take cognizance of all crimes and misdemeanours. The magistrates who preside in them are competent to pronounce sentences of imprisonment for periods not exceeding 12 months, and to inflict fines of not more than 50*l*. In crimes of a serious nature the persons charged are committed to the Court of Assizes. The following table shows the number and nature of offences brought before the district courts in the last two years:—

Years.	Assaults, &c.	Malicious injury to Property.	Prædial Larceny.	Other Offences against Property.	Offences against the Law relating to Revenue, Highway, Health, and other Laws relating to the Social Economy of the Colony.	Other Offences.	Totals.
1873	940	6	298	725	3,882	3,710	9,561
1874	1,224	115	298	1,477	7,014	3,659	13,787

It will be observed that there was a great increase in the number of offences during the year 1874. But although offences

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against property have been more than doubled, the great increase in the numbers of offences has arisen from contraventions against sanitary and other laws relating to the social economy of the Colony. The following is a comparative statement of offences in which convictions and acquittals occurred in the district courts during the past two years.

District Courts.	1873.	1874.
Convictions - - - - -	9,561	13,787
Acquittals - - - - -	9,156	6,969

69. The greater proportion of convictions in the year under review appears to be due to greater care having been taken by the prosecutors in preparing and conducting their cases.

Gaols and Prisoners.

70. There are eight rural district gaols, and one central gaol in the city of Port Louis.

71. The average daily number of prisoners in gaol during the year was 1,189, against 1,072 of the previous year.

72. The general death-rate per cent. per annum was 2·69 against 3·54 in 1873.

73. The total number of prisoners convicted in 1874 was as follows:—

Europeans - - - -	293
Creoles - - - -	1,263
Indians - - - -	7,846
Total -	9,402

Of these, 3,753 were sentenced for non-payment of fines, costs, &c.; and 6,942 received sentences shorter than one month.

1,452 had been convicted once previously; 1,160 twice; 1,323 thrice or more.

74. There were 1,717 offences against prison rules in 1874, against 1610 in 1873.

75. The number of disciplinary punishments inflicted in 1874 was 1,717, and in 1873, 1,607.

76. The number of prisoners who escaped in 1874 was 92. Nearly all of these escaped from out-door working parties. 89 escaped prisoners were recaptured.

77. The prisoners are employed partly in industrial occupations, but principally at out-door labour. The labour of those in Port Louis has effected important sanitary improvements at the lagoon termed Mer Rouge. But with out-door labour discipline is impossible.

Government Reformatory.

78. Under Ordinance No. 1 of 1867, power was given to the Governor of Mauritius to establish reformatory schools for juvenile

offenders not exceeding 15 years of age; and for vagrant children without any home or settled abode, or residing with persons of bad character. Subsidiary rules were enacted with a view to the instruction of the children in letters and industrial handicraft, and to provide for their moral and religious training.

79. A juvenile reformatory for boys was established in the year 1869, under the above ordinance. It is situated on a fine piece of land containing 175 acres, about six miles from Port Louis. It is under the general control of the Inspector-General of Police.

80. The daily average number of boys present throughout the past year was 188. The number actually present on the last day of the year was 181, of the following races:—

Indians - -	- 81
Creoles (African descents)	- 92
Bombonese - -	- 2
Africans - -	- 6
	181

There were—

Orphans - -	- 87
Having both parents -	- 51
Father only - -	- 22
Mother only - -	- 21
	181

81. Of these 174 were of 11 years old and upwards to 17 years. The rest below 11 years.

82. The following return shows the numbers who passed through the institution during 1874, and how they were disposed of:—

Remaining on last day of 1873	- 194
New boys entered -	- 88
Returned from masters -	- 17
Deserters recaptured -	- 18
	317
Apprenticed - -	- 5
Discharged - -	- 101
Escaped - - -	- 21
Died - - -	- 9
Remaining on last day of 1874	- 181
	317

Of the 88 boys received in 1874, 65 had not been convicted of any offence before; 18 had been convicted once; 3 twice; and 2 thrice or more.

Their races were—

Indians - - -	50
Creoles (African descent) -	34
Bombonese - - -	2
Africans - - -	2
	88

Indian boys, therefore, have entered in greater proportion than in the previous year.

83. The 17 who returned from masters are those who had been apprenticed and were returned, either for misconduct or from their masters not requiring them longer. Six of these were re-engaged, and four were committed to prison for offences.

84. The number of desertions during the year was 21, and 18 were recaptured.

85. The boys are all taught trades, handicrafts, agriculture, and horticulture. The total expenditure on account of the institution in 1874 was 3,223*l.* The value of the boys' labour, articles made, and produce raised, amounted to 854*l.* The stock on hand at the end of the year was valued at 148*l.* The institution is therefore far from being self-supporting, but is every year improving in that respect. Discipline is well supported, and it is hoped that the general result of the training received is beneficial. This subject, however, is surrounded with much difficulty; and the question as to the employment and behaviour of the boys who pass out of the reformatory is engaging attention.

86. The health of the inmates has been excellent; 327 cases were treated in hospital, and there were 9 deaths.

Legislation.

87. During the year 1874, 22 ordinances were passed by the Council of Government.

88. The most important of these related to the public health, to the protection and disposal of Crown lands, and to prescriptive rights of the Crown against private parties, as well as of private parties against the Crown.

89. In regard to public health, special duties of customs and of excise were formerly levied for sanitary purposes. This law was abolished by Ordinance 13 of the past year, but the amount of duty was in future to be inclcuded in the general revenue. The Colonial Treasury thus became responsible for providing funds for all sanitary requirements.

90. By Ordinance 8, all local boards of health were abolished, and all authority was centred in one general board. That board has, under the ordinance, an executive officer in the city of Port Louis, termed "Sanitary Warden," and "Sanitary Guardians" in the rural districts. The powers of the General Board of Health for executing public works for sanitary purposes, for framing regulations and enforcing obedience thereto, are amply provided for.

91. Two other ordinances relating to the public health, subsidiary to the foregoing, were also passed.

92. Ordinance 18, for the protection of Crown lands, defined the boundary line of the "Pas Géométriques" on the sea coast, and the Crown rights therein; also the conditions for lease and for the preservation of trees on such lands. The Pas Géométriques were declared in Ordinance 10 of the year to be imprescriptible and inalienable.

93. The disposal of other Crown lands by free grant for religious, charitable, or educational purposes, and by lease or public auction sale in all other cases, was provided for. All squatters can be ejected by the ordinary process of law. The ordinance also provided for the appointment of forest rangers to enforce the execution of the woods and forest laws of the Colony, and of forest-keepers in forests owned by private proprietors, who were to be paid by the owners, but to have the same authority as rangers.

94. By Ordinance 10 the same lapse of time which bars the rights and actions real or personal of private parties against the Crown was declared to bar the rights of the Crown against private parties.

95. The laws relating to licenses, under which licenses for occupations, trades, and professions are issued, were remodelled and consolidated by ordinance No. 17. By licenses about a fourth of the revenue of the Colony is raised, and this ordinance by simplifying the law rendered a service to all concerned in trades and occupations.

96. The other ordinances passed legislate for the jurisdiction of the Bishop of the Church of England in Mauritius; for public holidays and bank holidays; for friendly, literary, and scientific societies; for the preparation of the lists of jurors; for allowances to witnesses and their travelling expenses in proceedings before the Supreme Court, and for other subjects of minor importance.

Trade.

97. The value of imports and exports of Mauritius and its dependencies for 1874, and for the previous year, omitting fractions, was as follows:—

——	1874.	1873.	In 1874.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Imports, Merchandise -	2,427,802	2,165'400	262,402	—
„ Specie - -	156,318	288,701	—	132,383
Exports, Merchandise -	2,697,892	3,238,700	—	540,808
„ Specie - -	322,461	136,701	185,760	—
Grand Total - -	5,604,473	5,829,502	448,162	673,191
Net decrease - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	225,029

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98. In addition to the above-mentioned export of specie which appears in the Customs statement for 1874, Indian immigrants returning to their country carried specie to the value of 65,495*l.* No statement of the export of specie by return immigrants in 1873 was made.

99. The principal article of export, namely, sugar, shows a falling off. The following statement shows the quantity and value of sugar, being home produce, exported for the last three years:—

——	Tons.	Value.	Rate per Cwt.	Note.
		£	£ s. d.	
1872 - -	122,288	2,817,221*	1 2 2½	These rates are calculated on the declared value of the sugar exported, not on the market rates.
1873 - -	111,718	2,882,590*	1 4 11	
1844 - -	93,388	2,293,214*	1 3 8	

100. The largest quantity was exported to the United Kingdom; then Australia, India, and the Cape of Good Hope, severally, in the order in which they are mentioned, took the greatest amount; and the rest went to various parts of the world, but principally to countries of Europe.

101. The reduced quantity exported resulted from the damage done to the cane plantations by a hurricane in March 1874, which lasted for five days.

102. The other articles of export, the produce of the Colony, which are rising in importance, are vanilla, aloe-fibre, cocoa-nut oil, and rum.

103. The value of those exported during the last three years is as follows:—

——	1872.	1873.	1874.
	£	£	£
Vanilla - - -	10,560	12,216	29,951
Aloe-fibre - - -	4,634	4,416	4,403
Cocoa-nut oil - - -	1,071	9,505	14,297
Rum - - - -	39,664	47,082	49,268

Savings Bank.

104. The amount deposited during the year was 93,634*l.*, of which 51,690*l.* was by Indians. The deposits were 6,160*l.* less than in the previous year. But the deposits by Indians increased 5,637*l.*

105. The amount withdrawn was 107,362*l.*, of this 45,451*l.* was withdrawn by Indians. The withdrawals have also been greater by 21,000*l.* than in 1873. The sum of 18,646*l.* was withdrawn by Indians returning to their own country.

* Value of Colonial produce.

106. The following statement shows the total numbers of depositors and the total amount in deposit on the last days of 1873 and 1874:—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount in Deposit.	Average of each, excluding fractions.
		£	£
1873 -	10,330	256,825	25
1874 -	10,945	252,734	23

Of this amount 5,480 Indians held 125,425*l.* at the close of 1874; the rest was owned by others of the general population.

The interest allowed is 4 per cent.

107. The large amount withdrawn during the year is probably attributable mainly to the general reduction in employment and movement of trade, consequent on the great damage to the sugar-canes from the hurricane of March.

Botanic Garden.

108. The Botanic Garden of Mauritius, which extends over 46 acres, contains a choice collection of tropical trees and shrubs. It is a favourite place of resort for all classes of the inhabitants. It is situated about seven miles from Port Louis. There is also a nursery garden at Curepipe, situated about 1,800 feet above the sea. The number of visitors to the garden during the year was 65,887.

109. The garden is a depôt for the reception of plants and seeds introduced from other countries, and for distributing them throughout the island. Many valuable forest trees were introduced from India during the year, and 387,842 plants were propagated and sent out. The plant yielding the rhœa, or "China grass" fibre, and also the aloe fibre, have received much attention, as products likely to be of considerable industrial value to the Colony. Cinchonas have also been cultivated with success at Curepipe, but the cultivation of this tree does not extend among private proprietors.

110. Several kinds of sugar-cane, especially those from New Caledonia and Java, were cultivated, and cuttings disposed of to all who applied for them.

Observatory, Meteorological and Astronomical.

111. The main objects of the Observatory will be most appropriately described by quoting the words of the chief of the establishment, Mr. Charles Meldrum. They are, "To carry on a "continuous and systematic series of meteorological, magnetical, "and sun observations at the Observatory; to obtain as many "observations as possible from different parts of the Colony and "from some of its dependencies; to keep as full a record as "possible of the observations made on board ship in the Indian "Ocean; and to publish the results."

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112. A new building, situated six miles from Port Louis, was occupied during the year; and the director observes, "There has "been no break in the continuity of the observations." In an island peculiarly liable during five months of the year to hurricanes, the meteorological observations have an immediate practical interest, which is never lost sight of by the observer. These observations have two divisions, land and sea.

113. In the first, five meteorological observations were made and recorded daily during the year, and in hurricane weather hourly observations have been made day and night. A continuous photographic record of the atmospheric pressure was obtained by means of a barograph. A similar record of the diurnal variations of the magnetic elements is also obtained.

114. A time-ball on the Signal Mountain at Port Louis is dropped by electricity from the Observatory three times a week. This is of great importance to the ships in harbour.

115. On the 9th of December the transit of Venus was observed with a new equatorial, procured for the purpose. The morning was not favourable, but the first and second internal contracts were observed.

116. The sea observations consist in tabulating the observations entered in log-books of ships entering Port Louis. The logs are copied by employés of the Meteorological Society, which is supported by Government. This work has now carefully proceeded for more than 20 years, and a highly valuable record of observations has been so tabulated that at a glance can be seen the general character of the weather that prevailed on any particular day in the parts of the ocean where the observations were made.

117. In 1874 the observations of 44 vessels were recorded, giving not less than 16,332 days' observations. Special registers are made of storms. Charts are in course of construction, showing the direction and force of the wind, the state of the weather and sea in the Indian Ocean, for one year; for which record there are sufficient data. The tracks of hurricanes in January and March 1874 have been traced, and charts showing the tracks of all cyclones in the Indian Ocean since 1847 are being prepared.

118. When a hurricane is approaching Mauritius, or is likely to pass near it, the fact is announced by telegram to Port Louis. On the 26th and 27th of January telegrams announced that there was no danger from a hurricane which was passing northward and westward of the island; but in the forenoon of the 25th March a storm warning was issued, and a terrible hurricane swept over the island, which attained its maximum force on the 28th.

119. The report of the observer concludes with some highly interesting generalisations on the phenomena observed.

Minor Dependencies.

120. The minor dependencies of Mauritius are chiefly engaged in the production of cocoa-nut oil, of which about 276,805 gallons were produced, of the value of 34,567*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* One group, the

Cargados, or St. Brandon Bank, produces only salt fish, the whole of which is consumed in Mauritius.

121. The St. Brandon group and Agalega were visited in 1874 by Mr. Jenner as special magistrate.

Rodrigues.

122. This island lies about 360 miles east from Mauritius. It has an area of about 43 square miles, with a population under 2,000, nearly all of mixed or African descent. The number of Indians by birth or descent does not, probably, exceed 20 souls. The chief productions of the island are salt fish and a few dry vegetables; but there is also a fair exportation of horned cattle, goats, and pigs. The horned cattle are estimated at nearly 10,000, and the goats at about 6,000.

123. The island was one of the stations fixed upon by the British Government for observation of the transit of Venus, and the expedition was most successful.

General Remarks.

124. The Hon. Sir Arthur Gordon was Governor of the Colony from the beginning of the year until September. From that time the Hon. Mr. Newton administered the government until the 21st of November.

125. The year under review has been unfavourable. The hurricane of March injured the sugar-cane crop, and thereby every trade and occupation throughout the island was more or less depressed. But the evil effects, combined with other adverse circumstances, will, it is feared, be more marked in the following year. Rice was dear, consequent on the famine which existed throughout a large portion of India. This did not injuriously affect the bulk of the labouring Indian population, as they are supplied with a fixed ration, irrespective of price; but with the generally diminished prosperity of the year, the high price of the staple article of food among the labouring classes acted unfavourably on the Colony generally.

126. The high rates of exchange on Europe, a consequence of the diminished export of the chief article of Colonial produce during two years, caused much inconvenience to the mercantile community.

(Signed) A. P. PHAYRE.

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No. 20.

The CIVIL COMMISSIONER of the SEYCHELLES to Governor Sir ARTHUR PHAYRE, K.C.S.I., C.B.

Chief Civil Commissioner's Office, Seychelles,
May 19, 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the returns for the Blue Book for the year 1874.

Legislation.

1. An Order in Council made by the Queen to amend the Order in Council of 1872 came into force by a Proclamation No. 8 of the Governor on the 4th April 1874. The two Orders in Council are to be construed together, and they may be cited as the Seychelles Orders in Council of 1872 and 1874.

The principal alterations are :—

The Chief Civil Commissioner is authorised and empowered to remit sentences of fine and imprisonment in certain cases, the jurisdiction of the district court is extensively enlarged, the appointment of a justice of the peace by the Governor at 200*l.* a year is authorised and his jurisdiction defined, the Governor is also authorised to establish a branch Civil Status Office at Praslin; and certain powers of the Board of Civil Commissioners are defined.

2. The following proclamations having also special reference to Seychelles were issued during the year: No. 3 authorises vessels arriving off the Island of Praslin to receive pratique the same as at Mahé; No. 16 extends to Seychelles Article 16 of Mauritius Ordinance 8 of 1869, "To amend and consolidate the laws on game," and so much of Article 12 as enacts penalties for offences provided against by Article 16 of the said Ordinance.

3. Twelve regulations were passed by the Board of Civil Commissioners and approved of and one (Regulation No 2) was disallowed.

4. The Regulation No. 1 was passed for the purpose of legalising certain extra expenditure incurred in 1872 beyond the amounts voted.

5. By Regulation No. 3 passed and approved of in May, in lieu of Mauritian Ordinance No. 11 of 1870 expired, a board of health was established which commenced operations during the year.

6. Regulation No. 4 fell through, the loan of 2,000*l.* (authorized by Regulation No. 2 of 1872 for the Port Victoria Waterworks) for the repayment of which it stipulated not having been incurred

7. Regulation No. 5 provided for the establishment of a savings' bank. Owing to the difficulties in the way of establishing a mortgage office at Seychelles this valuable regulation has not yet been acted on.

8. Regulation No. 6 was for the purpose of checking the larcenies of cocoanuts. It has already borne good results.

9. The Regulation No. 7 to repeal that of No. 3 of 1873, and to make other provisions for the levying of a local rate in lieu thereof, was passed and confirmed in August 1874. Its provisions will come into force this year. The local rate imposed by the Regulation of 1873 was levied in 1874. The regulation No. 7 of 1874 has a wider scope than No. 3 of 1873; the former contains nine taxable classes and the latter but four.

10. The Regulation No. 8 passed and confirmed in August, to provide for the payment of a sanitary rate, will come into operation this year; in 1874 a rate of 6*d.* in the pound on the locative value was levied under Mauritian Ordinance No. 40 of 1863.

11. The Regulation No. 9 of 1874 was passed for the purpose of discouraging the occupation of small parcels of land by squatters (generally of African race) who paid the owners in kind. The African, recently manumitted and ignorant, after his allotment term expired, was attracted to the soil and accepted the only conditions of tenure offered to him: to pay in kind a portion of such scanty provisions he raised, eking out a miserable existence himself on the balance, assisted often by larcenies of cocoanuts from neighbouring properties. He had no real interest in the land upon which he was located as the proprietor could eject him at will. He led a lazy, squatted, and valueless life, with no prospects ever, by his own exertions, of obtaining sufficient means for a civilized existence. The growing evil led some of the inhabitants to complain, and Governor Sir Arthur Gordon had Regulations 9 and 10 drafted to meet the case. The Ward Rate Regulation of 1873, which Governor Gordon also drew up, would, if enforced, have made these regulations unnecessary, but it met with such opposition that he decided not to confirm it. The Ward Rate Regulation of 1873 had met with the approval of the Secretary of State, and would, doubtless, have acted beneficially. The Regulation No. 9 of 1874 has had a good effect; many of the squatters have sought the labour market where they were much wanted, and where the means of obtaining a respectable living is within reach of a moderate industry. It will take time, however, to eradicate a system that had become part of the social life of this place.

12. Regulation No. 10 provides for the registration of leases and agreements of property. It is useful to know the status of the parties in occupation of land or premises, especially with reference to the previous regulation.

13. Regulation No. 11 provides a scale of rations for liberated Africans in lieu of that previously in use, and makes a reservation

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as to the age at which written contracts for service may be entered into by liberated African minors.

14. Regulation No. 12 is to amend and define certain wording of the previous Regulation.

15. Regulation No. 13 embodied the estimates for 1875.

Imports and Exports.

16. The imports for the year figure for ordinary merchandise 44,438*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, and for specie 5,376*l.* 12*s.* The exports were 32,552*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* besides 8,447*l.* 4*s.* in specie. This shows a falling off compared with the previous year of 8,067*l.* 17*s.* 3½*d.* for imports, and 22,602*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* for exports, specie not being included in the comparing figures for the two years. In 1873 the imports and exports included 6,709*l.* in French Government stores passing through for the French settlements at Nossi Bé and Mayotta. This will reduce the difference for imports to 1,358*l.* 17*s.* 3½*d.*, and for exports to 15,893*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* There was a falling off in the value of export of coocanut oil to the extent of 7,465*l.* which doubtless led to a less importation of goods, and will account for the diminution of imports. The balance of exports against 1874 compared with 1873 to the extent of 8,428*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* must remain unaccounted for, as I can find no returns recorded here upon which the figures for 1873 were based. It probably arises, to a great extent, from a larger value having been assigned to articles of produce, which in the accompanying returns are placed at their market value. In the import and export returns for 1870–1–2, whose total figure must appear large for each of those years in comparison with this one, I notice from certain memoranda that, as a rule, articles for the Blue Book returns were valued at from 30 per cent. to 75 per cent. more than in this year's returns. The value of cocoanut oil has certainly on the whole diminished.

Revenue and Expenditure.

17. The revenue of 1874 was 790*l.* 12*s.* less than the amount estimated for, but was more by 1,648*l.* 15*s.* 6½*d.* than the amount collected in 1873. This increase of receipts over the previous year was not due to customs or to any item that could be described as indicating a larger trade or a more prosperous condition of things. It was due to the imposition of a sanitary rate (216*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*), a larger collection of road tax to the amount of (957*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*), prison labour on the various public works brought to account for the first time (220*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*), commission on money orders first introduced (31*l.* 10*s:* 8*d.*) and a large increase of fines, fees, and forfeitures of court owing to a heavy seizure.

18. The customs produced 853*l.* less than the estimate, or 41*l.* 17*s.* less than was collected in 1873.

19. The general licenses and rum permits taken together exceed the estimates by 21*l.*, but the license receipts alone were

523*l.* 15*s.* under the estimates and the rum permits alone 544*l.* 15*s.* above them.

20. The stamp office receipts 287*l.* 17*s.* show a slight increase on the two previous years, but were 212*l.* 3*s.* under the estimate, which was evidently placed high for some reason that did not operate.

21. The dog tax, the local and the sanitary rates were together 86*l.* 13*s.* less than the amount estimated to be received from them.

22. The following items of revenue also show a falling off from the estimates: money order commissions 69*l.* 10*s.*, public hospital 272*l.* 7*s.*, sales of government property 16*l.* 15*s.*, prison labour 76*l.* 10*s.*, water supply to ships 30*l.* 16*s.*, postage 2*l.* 8*s.*, land sales and land revenue 35*l.* 14*s.*

23. The following items of revenue show an increase over the estimates; shipping master 5*l.* 19*s.*, rum storage 3*l.* 1*s.*, fines, fees, and forfeitures of court 642*l.* 10*s.*, registration 27*l.*, quay dues 78*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, market receipts 39*l.* 15*s.*

24. Taking the revenue of 1874 and comparing it with that of 1873 the following items show an increase of receipts :—quay dues 46*l.* 14*s.* 2½*d.*, warehouse rent 10*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, registration 25*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*, general licenses and rum permits 61*l.* 18*s.* 10¾*d.*, stamps 32*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, dog tax, local and sanitary rates 1,221*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, postage 1*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, money orders 31*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, fines, fees, and forfeitures of court 271*l.* 7*s.*, rum storage 22*l.* 4*s.* 1½*d.*, public hospital 63*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, shipping master 8*l.* 9*s.*, miscellaneous 59*l.* 17*s.* 8½*d.*, prison labour 223*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, total 2,080*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* The following items show a decrease of receipts; land sales 260*l.* 12*s.*, land rents 49*l.* 6*s.*, sales of government property 24*l.* 15*s.* 2½*d.*, water supplied to shipping 17*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, customs 41*l.* 17*s.*, total 394*l.* 9*s.* 0½*d.*

25. The estimated revenue of 1874, was 12,735*l.* the amount collected was 11,944*l.* 7*s.* 11¼*d.*, or 790*l.* 12*s.* 0¾*d.* less.

26. The estimated expenditure for 1874 was 10,526*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* the money spent came to 12,434*l.* 4*s.*, or 1,908*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* over.

27. There was a surplus of expenditure for the year over the votes in some departments, in others it was the reverse. The cause of the excess of expenditure was practically due to the cost of the pipes for the Port Victoria Waterworks, amounting to 1,833*l.*, not having been placed on the estimates. It was intended to have met this item by a loan which, however, was disallowed.

28. Taking the estimates as a whole the revenue fell short of them by 790*l.* 12*s.* 8¾*d.* and the expenditure was increased by 1,908*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* or 2,698*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* against the calculations. It was estimated there would have been a balance in favour of the receipts of 2,208*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* The difference between the actual and anticipated results which agrees with the difference between the total receipts and the total expenditure, and which amounts to 489*l.* 16*s.* 0*d.* will fall on the balance on hand on the 31st December 1874, which was given as 2,860*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*

Ecclesiastical.

29. There is a sum of 300*l.* a year paid to each of the two churches established at Seychelles. The civil chaplain receives the whole amount allotted to the Church of England. Two priests divide the amount allotted to the Church of Rome. There are besides five unsalaried priests resident at different stations in the Island, and one lay brother, who superintend the construction and maintenance of churches, schools, and residences connected with the Roman Catholic Church.

Educational.

30. Captain Havelock, the late Acting Chief Civil Commissioner, who personally examined the Church of England Schools at Port Victoria in December 1874, states in his report: "The "standard of attainments, organisation, and general efficiency is, "I regret to say, not satisfactory." It seems the schoolmaster held no certificate of competency, he received a third class one from Captain Havelock. The schoolmistress held no certificate and failed to pass for one. The supply of books in use was reported to be insufficient and unsatisfactory. The grant allowable calculated in the usual manner was estimated as follows:

One third class teacher 20*l.*, five children passed third class, 10 passed fourth class, and 21 passed fifth class. Total proficiency money 2*l.* 16. Head money for average attendance of 69 children 8*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* Total grant: 31*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* for the Port Victoria Church of England Schools for the year 1874.

31. Dr. McGregor, the inspector of schools, owing to absence, did not examine the Church of England School at Praslin before January and February 1875. Mrs. Michaud, the teacher, held no certificate of competency and failed to pass for one when examined by Dr. McGregor. The attendance at the school was reported to be unsatisfactory, the roof of the schoolroom let in the water and teaching had to be suspended during rainy weather. The grant in aid was estimated by the inspector as follows: six children passed half proficient third class, four passed proficient, and two passed half proficient fourth class, 16 passed proficient fifth class. Total proficiency money 1*l.* 15*s.* Head money for average daily attendance of 14 children 1*l.* 15*s.*, making 3*l.* 10*s.*, the total grant for the Praslin Church of England School for the year 1874.

32. The Church of England School at Pointe-au-Sel was not examined.

33. The report of Captain Havelock states that the managers of these schools at Seychelles have less than 100*l.* a year, all told, at their disposal for scholastic purposes; under these circumstances, with three schools and six teachers to support a larger result was not to be expected. But the Government might do more for the sake of the imported Africans and their descendants

who frequent these schools and who are too poor to pay or to provide themselves with books.

34. The examination of the Roman Catholic School at Port Victoria was conducted in February 1874 by the inspector of Schools, Dr. McGregor, who reports: "It is very satisfactory, to "be able to state that, upon the whole, the condition of the Roman "Catholic Schools is very satisfactory, and reflects the greatest "credit on the devotion and perseverance of those who have given "their disinterested services to a work that is doing an incalculable "amount of public good."

35. The Roman Catholic Schools, however, have 14 highly qualified and specially trained Europen teachers, a plentiful supply of books, maps, and materials for a superior class of education, including music, singing, sewing, and embroidery, as well as book learning, the managers of the schools have built extensive and expensively constructed premises, in fact a heavy yearly outlay in money and much single-minded devoted energy have, together, produced a favourable result. Most of the scholars pay no fees and 78 girls were on the books as being wholly clothed, housed, and fed besides being educated gratuitously, 15 recently taken into the establishment were not on the books. Many poor orphans are taken by the hand and obtain respectable situations when they arrive at a suitable age. The grant in aid was estimated as follows: one first class master 50*l.*, and one third class 20*l.*, one first class mistress 50*l.*, and three third class at 20*l.* each. These were not examined by the inspector, they were trained for the vocation in Europe; 17 children passed proficient first class, 35 second class, 77 third class, 88 fourth class, and 150 fifth class. Total proficiency money 36*l.* 12*s.* Head money of average daily attendance of 336 children 42*l.* Total grant for the Port Victoria Roman Catholic Schools for the year 1874, 258*l.* 12*s.*

36. It is not an unmixed satisfaction to notice the large per-centage of charity given by these schools compared with the total number of scholars, only a small per-centage pay anything towards their education. I have heard the inspector remark that the parents often fail to pay anything who are well able to stand the full charge.

37. The educational grant for the year was 400*l.* of which 106*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* will remain unexpended.

Immigration and Liberated Africans.

38. During the year there were 284 liberated Africans landed at Seychelles from Her Majesty's Ships "Thetis" and "Vulture," of these seven died in hospital, two were taken by the "Vulture," and 275 were allotted under the conditions imposed by law. The Roman Catholic Schools took charge of four boys and eight girls to clothe, feed, and educate, and the Church of England Chaplain had one boy under 16 years of age transferred to him for the same purpose.

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39. Of these 275 Africans, 144 were males and 131 females. There were 38 males of 16 years of age and over, and 106 under 16 years of age. There were 72 females of 16 years of age and over and 59 under 16 years of age.

40. The Government Road Department took over three men and one boy, two women and one girl.

41. Thirty-eight men and 65 boys, 71 women and 25 girls were allotted for field or out-door labour (including the road department), 41 boys, one woman, and 34 girls were allotted for domestic service, (this includes the 13 children the clergy took charge of.) The number of inhabitants who received allotted Africans was 85.

Police Force.

42. In May 1874 the Seychelles Police Force was separated entirely from the Mauritian Force and placed under a chief officer residing at Port Victoria.

Gaols and Prisoners.

43. There were 131 fewer persons committed for trial than in 1873. Of the 520 total committals by the district court, 477 were for sentences of three months or less. The daily average in prison was nearly 10 per cent. less than the previous year. One prisoner died in gaol, but the average sick list was slightly less than in 1873 in proportion to the number of prisoners. Three prisoners sentenced to 14 days imprisonment each had their sentences commuted by the Acting Chief Civil Commissioner.

Works and Buildings.

44. The public buildings were kept in repair and the public hospital and gaol were whitewashed during the year.

Roads and Bridges.

45. The Barbaron road was extended 1,243 cubic yards, of its Chaussée 15,723 cubic feet were made with two openings. The North Road was extended 365 cubic feet besides 548 cubic feet of parapet wall built. There were two bridges constructed at the Cascades, one 40 feet by 18 feet, and one 14 feet by 18 feet. Two wooden bridges, on piles, were built at Anse aux Pins, one 58 feet by 9 feet and the other 22 feet by 16 feet. Thirty-nine wooden culverts were rebuilt on the North-west Bay and Cascade Roads, 4,148 cubic feet of macadam were laid down on the streets at Port Victoria. The New Cemetery at Mont Fleuri was commenced to be cleared and enclosed.

Improvements.

46. The town was extended slightly during the year. Coral has the advantage of being easily obtained and easily worked; but

it makes a poor building material and lets in the damp; it is the stone usually employed here. There is a plentiful supply of a superior building material, but it requires skill and labour to work it. The absence of cultivated gardens where they could be easily made and the general want of tidiness about the houses of the people at Port Victoria is observable.

Agriculture.

47. The quantity of cocoa-nut oil—the staple produce—declared at the Custom House for exportation was 145,410 velts only,—it is difficult to get at the quantity produced. A disease has declared itself among the cocoa-nuts which materially lessens the production, it is to be hoped the evil will not increase. It is also stated that the rains of 1873 were less than usual and unfavourably affected the production of nuts for 1874.

48. It is a noticeable feature in the exports that in a country long ago proved to be so favourably situated as to position, climate, and soil for their culture, neither coffee, tobacco, cocoa, vanilla, spices, indigo, arrowroot, or any other article requiring care, labour, skill, and capital in the culture and preparation should figure to any appreciable extent. This reproach to the industry and intelligence of Seychelles will shortly cease, some hundreds of acres of land are being cultivated and planted with coffee, vanilla, cocoa, &c., and there is little doubt but that the result will induce others to follow what must prove a highly lucrative investment and open up an era of healthy and progressive prosperity for the Archipelago.

General Remarks.

49. I have not been here long enough to feel myself warranted or able to give an opinion on the general prospects of the settlement, its present condition and resources. It is self-evident, however, and practical judges have expressed the same opinion, that there is a fair field for enterprise in commerce, in industrial pursuits, and in agriculture.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. S. SALMON,

Chief Civil Commissioner.

His Excellency
Major General Sir Arthur P. Phayre, K.C.S.I., C.B.,
Governor and Commander in Chief,
Mauritius.

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No. 21.

The OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT to
The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Labuan, July 2, 1875.

IN the absence of His Excellency the Governor Sir Henry Bulwer, I have the honour to forward the returns composing the Blue Book of Labuan for the year 1874.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH LOW,
Administering the Government.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.,
Colonial Office.

Land Sales.

1. At a sale by auction held on the 17th of August 1874, the highest price offered as a premium for the 999 years lease was $2 10 cents per acre for padi lands of the best quality, and in the most favourable situations. It was not considered advisable to alienate the land for speculative purposes on these terms, so that only 100 acres were disposed of to persons who, from having originally brought the lots into cultivation, had an equitable claim to consideration.

Quit-rent of Lands.

2. No change took place in the rates of the annual quit-rents, which remain at $120 per acre for town lands, and 25 cents per acre for country allotments.

Rents exclusive of Lands.

3. These are raised by the rent of water troughs which were originally erected by Governor Edwards in 1860, in order to enable him to induce Chinese traders to establish the business of sago washing in the Colony.

The sago had previously been carried in its raw state to Singapore, but the enterprise undertaken with the encouragement of the Government having been perfectly successful, the sago received from the coast of Borneo is now washed in Labuan and exported to Singapore in the state of sago flour, by which a great saving of freight is effected.

The troughs having served their original purpose are now in a ruinous state, but as the arrangement bound the lessee to keep them in repair, and as he uses water obtained from Crown lands for which he pays no rent, the revenue arranged at the commencement is still collected.

A sum of 30*l.* was also collected for the rent of a cocoa-nut plantation belonging to Government.

Several houses built for the accommodation of civil and military officers, which formerly contributed by their rents to the general revenue under this head, are now either ruinous or untenanted in consequence of the largely reduced establishment.

Transfer and Registration of Grants.

4. The receipts show but few mutations of titles to lands. Although these were not numerous, the law which, in fact, makes registration the best proof of title has been much neglected, and it will be one of the first duties of the gentleman recently appointed to the department to restore order into this important office.

Licenses farmed out.

5. The collection of the duties upon wines, spirit, beer, and toddy during the year was farmed out for 510*l.* The farmer has practically a monopoly of the retail trade in these articles, no other licensee for their sale having been appointed for many years.

The Opium Farm under Ordinance No. 2 of 1873 was sold for the year for 2,125*l.*

This Ordinance released the export trades from the monopoly which had arisen under the sale of the farm for three years concluded at the end of 1870. Under that arrangement the revenue collected in 1873 was 3,500*l.*; but the decline in 1874 was not owing to the abandonment of the monopoly so much as to the decrease which had taken place in the trade. The farm of India hemp, *Bhang* or *Gacija,* was sold for 5*l.* Since the departure of the Indian troops from the Colony there have been very few consumers of this drug.

The monopoly of the sale of tobacco for consumption in the Island, and of the sole right to export it within certain limits, was sold for the year for 700*l.* In the previous year this farm had produced the same sum, having been sold at the end of 1871, for the two years 1872 and 1873.

The right of keeping pawnbroking shops was sold for 60*l.* This also is practically a monopoly, but has been strictly regulated by recent legislation.

The market farm produced 580*l.* This gave the monopoly of the trade in fish (salt and fresh), poultry, fruit, and vegetables.

Licenses not farmed out.

6. Licenses to sell arms and ammunition were granted, under the provisions of the Ordinances No. 3 of 1866 and No. 5 of 1871, to 13 persons at the rate of $2 50 cts. each per month.

The latter Ordinance empowers the Governor to farm out the collection of these license fees, and this was the practice before the Ordinance was passed, but has not since been resorted to.

Timber Duties.

7. The trifling sum collected under this head is derived from a royalty of 10 per cent. levied on all timber cut upon Crown lands,

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but as the forests have now been destroyed this item can never be productive of any considerable amount of revenue.

Salt Duty.

8. In framing the estimates it was found necessary to re-impose taxation upon salt, and an Ordinance, No. 3 of 1873, was passed for this purpose. The duty collected under the new Ordinance was $10 upon each coyan of 40 piculs.

Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees.

9. No change took place in the rates of these, nor is any circumstance connected with them worthy of especial note.

Reimbursements in Aid.

10. These, amounting to 417*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, were derived almost entirely from payments made by the Oriental Coal Company for services performed in their favour by the surveyor general's department, the armed police force, and the convict establishment. Those services are very advantageous to the company, and performed at moderate costs.

Miscellaneous Receipts.

11. These show a large increase, arising from the introduction of copper money on a more extensive scale than in 1873. This coinage is supplied to the Colonial Treasury by the Government of the Straits Settlements under an arrangement, proposed by Sir Henry Bulwer, and sanctioned by the Secretary of State, by which the profits are divided equally between the two governments. The measure has been of great advantage to Labuan by materially assisting the small revenue, and for its great convenience to the trading interests.

Revenue and Expenditure.

12. The revenue of the year amounted to 7,083*l.* 18*s.* 6½*d.* That of 1873 to 6,917*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* The amount of 1,000*l.* was paid for the first time by the Oriental Coal Company on account of the annual rent of mines, &c., under the lease granted to them in 1869. The payment of this rental ought to have commenced in 1871.

There was a falling off as compared with the former year in the amount raised from the revenue farms, these having produced in 1874, 3,980*l.* against 5,330*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, the difference being due in part to the very depressed state of trade at the end of 1873, attributable to various causes which have been reported to your Lordship, and in some measure to the relief granted to various branches of commerce from the restrictions which had been found injurious to them.

Copper coin produced a profit to the Colony of 744*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* against 115*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* in 1873, and the salt duty, a newly imposed tax, added 163*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* to the revenue.

13. The expenditure for 1874 amounted to 7,187*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* That of 1873, to 7,090*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, of this amount 5,6 79*l.* 14*s.* 8½*d.* were disbursed for the fixed establishment, the salaries being paid for 13 months within the year in accordance with instructions contained in the Secretary of State's circular despatch of the 14 July 1873.

346*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* were in discharge of pensions.

The expenditure on police, prisons, and convicts, exclusive of establishments, amounted to 758*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*; that on hospitals to 48*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, on stationery and other miscellaneous items to 154*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, leaving only 199*l.* 10*s.* 5½*d.* for expenditure on public works.

Public Works.

14. The sum of 199*l.* 10*s.* 5½*d.* mentioned above was applied to the purchase of tools and materials, the labour having been almost entirely provided by the convict establishment.

A new barrack for the detachment of the armed police at the central station in Victoria was finished, with all its necessary outbuildings and a house for the fire engine. These buildings are of brick and wood, of excellent and durable construction, well ventilated and comfortable for the men.

A new local ward and a new hospital were erected in the gaol. Both these buildings, though of wood, are of substantial and commodious construction, and add very materially to the accommodation and to the sanitary condition of the premises.

Government House was supplied with a suitable kitchen and servants' quarters, and one wing of the public offices, which had become quite uninhabitable and very dangerous, was repaired thoroughly. It will now last for several years.

The barracks of the armed police force were rethatched and repaired, and extensive draining was carried on in their neighbourhood. A quantity of freestone was cut and dressed, the greater part of the drains of the Colony cleared out, the roads repaired, and young jungle eradicated on the clearings which had been at various times made for sanitary purposes, but which had been allowed again to become overgrown.

Legislation.

15. Five Ordinances were passed during the year :—

No. 1. An Ordinance to amend the constitution of the general court of Labuan.

No. 2. An Ordinance to limit the right of the Queen's Majesty to sue for lands, tenements, and hereditaments.

No. 3. An Ordinance to amend the law for raising a revenue on the sale and consumption of tobacco in the Island of Labuan.

No. 4. An Ordinance to repeal Ordinance No. 3 of 1872; and to make other provision in lieu thereof for regulating the sale of fish in the town of Victoria and in other districts and places within the Island of Labuan.

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No. 5. An Ordinance to make provision for the public service of the Colony during the year 1875.

Ordinance No. 1 defines more clearly than before the constitution of the general court, and makes provision for the trial of cases of treason and murder before the Governor, sitting as a single judge, on certain occasions when it might be impossible to assemble the number of three judges required by the Ordinance hitherto in force. Her Majesty's assent to this Ordinance has only been given under stringent instructions from the Secretary of State as to its application.

Ordinances Nos. 3 and 4 had for their objects the granting of relief, which had been found to be necessary, to the trade in tobacco and in provisions. The market monopoly is by the latter Ordinance, from 1 January 1875, restricted to the trade in fish, and strictly regulated. It had formerly included the trade in poultry, fruit, and vegetables. It now works very satisfactorily and the supply of fish is plentiful, the price moderate, and the fishermen again a thriving community.

Civil Establishment.

16. The alterations in the Civil Establishment consisted of the resignation of Mr. J. R. Howard, the Surveyor General, and Mr. Turney, the clerk in the Public Works Department. The latter vacancy it is not proposed to fill up.

Education.

17. When Sir Henry Bulwer succeeded to the Government in October 1871 there was no school in the Colony. As a good many children of the Chinese and Malay settlers were growing up, to whom education would be of advantage, Sir Henry Bulwer called a meeting of the chief householders, and having explained to them that the public finances not being in a state which would enable him to give pecuniary assistance from the Colonial Treasury for educational purposes, he thought that the object might be accomplished by private subscription. The persons present thanked His Excellency for his introduction of the subject, and at once put their names to a monthly subscription list, which enabled the Governor to engage the services of a schoolmaster, and the National Free School was opened in a hired building in the beginning of 1873. The average daily attendance during that year was 16. This fell in 1874 to 13½; but the attendance was greater towards the end of the year, and has gone on increasing, so that at present there are 25 to 31 boys daily receiving instruction. These learn to read and write the vernacular Malay with great facility, and the school has already turned out some boys qualified to obtain a better position in life than they could have otherwise hoped for. The course of instruction is in reading, writing, and arithmetic, in English and Malay.

Imports and Exports

18. Sir Henry Bulwer has described so fully the character of the trade of Labuan in his despatches already published that nothing remains to be added on this subject, and I merely give the figures for the years 1873 and 1874.

I also enclose two tables showing the imports from the coast, and the exports to Singapore for comparison with those prepared by Sir H. Bulwer for his account of the trade of the Colony already published.

The total trade of the Colony for 1874 consisted of—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imports - -	89,978	8	1
Exports - -	99,104	12	11

divided into imports from Singapore and imports from the coast of Borneo, which latter constitute the basis and chief part of the export trade to Singapore.

IMPORTS.

Year.	Column 1. From Singapore, &c.	Column 2. From Coast of Borneo, &c.
	£	£
1873	38,559	41,190
1874	47,924	42,054

EXPORTS.

Year.	Column 1. To Singapore, &c.	Column 2. To Coast of Borneo.
	£	£
1873	41,769	42,931
1874	57,111	41,991

The value of the exports to British Colonies is, as pointed out by Sir Henry Bulwer, the true test of the value of the trade of the Colony; it is also the return which can be made up with the greatest approach to accuracy.

The exports to the coast of Borneo have, in recent returns, been taken as of an amount equivalent to the value of the imports thence, as it is with them that the return cargoes are purchased.

This trade has until 1874 been carried on by native vessels, and it was feared that any interference with them in the way of collecting statistics would tend to diminish their preference for Labuan over the neighbouring foreign ports. But towards the end of 1874 a small steamer was engaged in this trade, and it

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thus happens that the export trade of the coast in the returns for the year 1874 is the amount of the value of imports voluntarily returned by native traders plus that of the exports carried by the steamer, of which accurate data were obtained.

The enclosed Table No. 1 shows that in the export of birds' nests, camphor, cinnamon, dammar, gutta percha, india rubber, pearls, mother-of-pearl shell, rattans, rope, sharks' fins, and vegetable tinder there was a falling off in 1873 and 1874 as compared with 1872.

Of the following articles the quantity exported has remained about the same, or has increased:—Beeswax, coal, hides, pepper, sago flour, tortoiseshell, trepang, specie, miscellaneous.

Sago flour is the most noticeable of these. The export of this article in 1872 was to the value of 26,249*l.*, in 1873 it fell to 16,141*l.*, chiefly in consequence of the small-pox visitation to the opposite coast; but there also remained in store unexported a considerable quantity at the end of the year, which assisted to swell the returns of export of this article for 1874 to 30,109*l.*, more than half the export trade of the Colony.

The trade in india rubber must necessarily decrease annually, as the process by which it and gutta percha is procured destroys the trees.

In imports from British Colonies the most remarkable article is rice. Formerly Labuan was fed from the north coast of Borneo, but in 1874 this important article of food came entirely from Singapore, the small-pox having brought to a minimum an importation which had been long diminishing.

Shipping.

19. Thirty-eight vessels, of 8,148 tons, and with crews amounting in number to 795 men, entered at Victoria Harbour during the year.

Of these, 24 vessels, of 6,643 tons, with 543 men, brought more or less cargo, and 14, of 1,505 tons and 272 men, were returned as in ballast.

It is proper to note that few of the vessels entering are full of cargo, and of those returned as in ballast many contain cargo which, being merely transhipped in the island on its way from the east coast of Borneo to Singapore, does not enter into the returns of the trade of the Colony.

Forty-one vessels, of 9,353 tons and 853 men, cleared from the Colony.

These numbers are chiefly made up of the voyages of one British steamer and of one British barque to Singapore, and of one German steamer and one other small steamer under the Brunei flag to the east coast of Borneo.

Labour.

20. Labour is scarce and inefficient. The prices of it and of many other things have risen much in late years.

Agriculture.

21. The agriculture of the Colony is of the rudest possible description, and is confined to the growth of *padi* and a little sugar cane.

Of the 21,000 acre of cultivable land supposed to be available in the Colony, only about 1,500 acres are such as could be used in the regular cultivation of *padi.* These consist of black soil, the product of the decayed foliage of the fine forests which formerly covered the island, and which had been carried by the heavy rains into the valleys, leaving the hills quite denuded of vegetable mould.

This soil lies fallow between the months of March and August, when the grass and weeds upon it are cut down and burnt. The *padi* plants are then dibbled into the mud with the point of a stick or a chopping knife, no ploughing or stirring of the soil having taken place, and being once weeded during their growth no other care is bestowed upon them till the harvest is ripe in January and February.

The other parts of the island are very much cut up by numerous watercourses with steep sides. The hills thus formed consist for the most part of poor soils of a yellow or reddish colour, sandy or clayey loam, now covered with ferns and grass, but which until 1868 supported a noble forest. Some small herds of buffaloes and cattle are grazed upon the land, and are in sufficient numbers to supply beef of very good quality to the inhabitants.

In geological structure the island of Labuan must be referred to a recent tertiary period. The shells which are found in the sandstones and clays appear to differ in no respect from those now living in the neighbouring seas. The blue clays above the coal are crowded with perfect impressions in coal of the foliage of the trees from which the beds of the mineral beneath have been formed, and there are easily recognised amongst them the leaves of trees of the same kinds as those which so recently covered the surface. Dipterocarpæ are the most common order in the fossil as in the recent vegetation, and large masses of the resin exuded by trees of this class are frequently found in the veins of coal.

Impressions of palms and ferns are rare, but these are not common in the recent flora, except in certain suitable spots favourable to their growth. The only shell which has been found in very close proximity to the coal is a bivalve, such as is now found in muddy estuaries.

Mines.

22. The operations at the coal mines during the year were confined to endeavours to sink the shaft to the deep coal. On the 31st December it had attained a depth of 96 fathoms from the surface, and the 11-foot vein was believed to be not more than 10 fathoms below this.

Many delays occurred and many accidents happened to the pumping and other gear, and it is to be feared that too great

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economy in supplying requisite materials has again adjourned the day when the success of this enterprise may be looked for.

The shaft at present has gone through three veins as under :—

	faths.	ft.	ins.		ft.	ins.
No. 1 seam, depth -	78	0	11	; thickness	6	6
„ 2 „ „ -	81	5	5	„	3	0
„ 3 „ „ -	97	1	0	„	4	6

A sufficient supply of coal for the vessels connected with the Colony and for the ships of war which called was raised from the old surface workings, but only one cargo was sold for exportation during the year.

The price at which vessels calling were supplied did not exceed $5 50 cts. per ton, free on board, $15 per ton being the cost in the neighbouring Colonies.

Crime and Prisons.

23. The number of offences reported to the police showed a diminution as compared with the preceding years, being—

For 1874 - - -	183
„ 1873 - - -	213
„ 1872 - - -	230

The character and proportion of the different offences remained much the same, and were mostly of a very light character; but two cases of murder occurred, in one only of which could the offenders be brought to justice.

A considerable increase to the accommodation in the gaol was made by the building of a new local ward and hospital, and some sanitary improvements were commenced, which will be carried to completion during the current year.

Public Health, &c.

24. The general health of the Colony was good, except in the months of June and July, when some fever prevailed at the southern end of the island.

The cases among the convicts were more numerous, and the death-rate in the prison was greater than usual, nine persons having died out of a total of 418 admissions and of 255 prisoners. Five of them were old and worn out diseased men, and two were paupers in a very emaciated and unwholesome condition when received into gaol.

The two other cases which terminated fatally were sufferers from malarious intermittent fever.

The building used as a civil hospital was erected by Governor Callaghan in 1866. The Government provide for the necessary medical attendance, and the other expenses are met by voluntary contributions.

The patients were 159 in number, against 167 in 1873.

The civil hospital is principally made use of by poor Chinese ; the Malay population, having friends and families who attend to them in sickness, rarely come to hospital, except for surgical

treatment. A considerable number of the patients are contributed by the coolies employed by the Coal Company, which subscribes to the hospital funds, and the members of the police force are also treated in it.

General Remarks.

25. The years 1873 and 1874 were periods of great depression. The visitation of small-pox, which appeared in Brunei towards the end of 1872, ravaged the whole coast between Tanjong Barram and Malleedu Bay in 1873, and attacked the tribes of the interior in 1874. The mortality in many inland districts cannot be estimated at less than half the population. Though this disease appeared in the Colony on several occasions, it was prevented from spreading by isolation and supervision.

26. Such a calamity, affecting the countries on which the Colony is dependent, at a time when it was feeling the full effects of the withdrawal of all Imperial expenditure, when the trade was suffering from the war between the Spaniards and Sooloo, and from other causes, and when the coal mines still delayed the help which has been so long expected of them, brought the Colony to the lowest point to which it has ever been reduced.

27. An improvement in trade began to be perceptible towards the third quarter of 1874, and the principal branch of it, that in sago, being stimulated by a sufficient supply of copper coinage, rapidly regained its former position, and even surpassed any to which it had ever before attained.

28. The considerable and increasing trade of the city of Brunei, 40 miles distant, and a profitable and extensive commerce which was carried on in the years under consideration between Singapore and the east coast of Borneo, although they do not enter into our returns, owe their existence to the neighbourhood of the Colony, and to the facilities provided by it.

29. The want of capital and energy amongst the Chinese traders settled in Labuan will prevent any considerable extension of its direct trade until these important elements for carrying on successful commercial transactions can be developed or imported.

30. One of the principal considerations which in 1847 induced Her Majesty's Governments of 1846 and 1847 to decide on the establishment of a settlement at Labuan, was to complete the abolition of piracy which, under the representations and advice of the late Sir James Brooke, had been so efficiently commenced by those distinguished officers, Sir Harry Keppel, the late Sir Thomas Cochrane, and Sir G. Rodney Mundy.

31. The active operations undertaken and steadily pursued by them in the four years, 1843 to 1846, had thoroughly destroyed all the pirate holds whence fleets of rovers had so long spread terror on the coasts of Borneo and many other countries, and the moral influence and example of regular government supplied by the Colony of Labuan and the Rajahship of Sarawak have completed what was then so well begun, and although on rare occasions acts of violence are still committed, no professional pirate fleet or

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vessel has sailed along the coast for many years, shipwrecked crews are treated with kindness, and the smallest trading prahus traverse in safety a coast line extending over more than 700 miles.

32. In this particular, therefore, the Colony has successfully vindicated the policy which led to its foundation, and if, in other respects, it has been less fortunate, it is not, as has been fully shewn by Sir Henry Bulwer, from any failure on the part of the island itself to fulfil the expectations to which it had given rise. Its coal is of good quality, more abundant than it was originally believed to be, and it is most favourably situated for shipment. The failure of the companies to obtain profitable results has been caused entirely by their own mismanagement.

33. It is to be hoped that such ample resources of valuable fuel will at no distant day be made available for the daily increasing demands of commercial steam navigation in the East. In the case of a naval war they would be invaluable to the country.

ENCLOSURE 1.

RETURN of IMPORTS from COAST of BORNEO and neighbouring ISLANDS during the Years 1872, 1873, and 1874.

No.	Articles.	Country whence imported.	1872.	1873.	1874.
			£	£	£
1	Attaps and Kajangs	Brunei and Coast of Borneo	143	193	130
2	Beeswax	Coast of Borneo and Palawan	1,533	1,300	3,071
3	Bezoar stones	Coast of Borneo	20	—	15
4	Birds' nests, edible	Coast of Borneo and East Coast	6,799	4,562	3,581
5	Brass ware	Brunei	1,273	823	149
6	Camphor	Coast and East Coast	2,901	1,075	1,363
7	Canes	Coast	1	1	—
8	Cattle	,,	11	—	46
9	Cinnamon	,,	9	4	—
10	Cloth, native	Coast and Brunei	406	53	46
11	Cocoa nuts	Coast and Cagayan-Sulu	63	10	75
12	Coffee	Sulu	—	—	—
13	Dammar-resin	Coast and Palawan	1,054	606	6
14	Gutta percha and india rubber	Coast and East Coast	19,496	8,540	3,068
15	Hides	Coast and Sulu	244	268	314
16	Horses	,, ,,	12	—	—
17	Mats	Brunei	31	8	7
18	Nuts, betel	Coast	7	2	—
19	Oil, cocoa-nut	Coast and Cagayan-Sulu	947	463	1,115
20	Padi	Coast	524	484	43
21	Pearls	Coast and East Coast and Sulu	1,651	179	1,017
22	Mother-o'-pearl	,, ,,	1,754	94	31
23	Pepper	Coast	65	66	15
24	Pigs	,,	404	196	404
25	Rattans	Palawan and East Coast	2,535	1,448	1,680
26	Rattan mats	Palawan	897	748	381
27	Rice and millet	Coast	514	391	105

No.	Articles.	Country whence imported.	1872.	1873.	1874.
			£	£	£
28	Rope - -	Sulu - -	29	40	—
23	Sago flour - -	Coast - -	6,341	4,986	6,675
50	„ raw - -	„ - -	11,994	9,156	15,613
31	Sharks' fins - -	East Coast - -	165	158	14
32	Tinder, vegetable -	Coast - -	22	1	—
33	Tobacco, native -	„ - -	398	373	51
34	„ other -	Sulu and Brunei -	—	—	—
35	Tortoise-shell -	Palawan, Sulu, and East Coast - -	1,950	1,893	1,191
36	Trepang - -	„ „ -	513	2,670	1,612
37	Specie - -	„ „ -	31	—	—
38	Miscellaneous -	„ „ -	964	391	232
	* Total by addition of above details -		65,701	41,182	42,050
	* Total as given in Blue Books -		65,911	41,190	42,054

ENCLOSURE 2.

RETURN of EXPORTS from the ISLAND of LABUAN during the Years 1872, 1873, and 1874, showing the Articles exported and the Values in Sterling of the same in each Year.

No.	Articles of Export.	Countries to which exported.	1872.	1873.	1874.
			£	£	£
1	Beeswax - -	Singapore -	1,177	1,444	2,805
2	Birds' nests -	„ -	7,322	5,016	4,342
3	Camphor - -	„ -	2,291	1,714	1,596
4	Cinnamon -	„ -	58	46	—
5	Coal - -	„ -	3,312	2,656	3,451
6	Coffee - -	„ -	—	—	—
7	Dammar - -	„ -	1,159	26	381
8	Gutta percha -	„ -	2,231	1,032	321
9	India rubber -	„ -	14,722	7,753	3,867
10	Hides - -	„ -	532	578	788
11	Pearls - -	„ -	2,185	758	1,309
12	Mother-o'-pearl -	„ -	2,178	145	—
13	Pepper - -	„ -	94	174	6
14	Rattans - -	„ -	2,538	570	1,852
15	Rattan mats -	„ -	—	—	—
16	Rope - -	„ -	12	—	—
17	Sago flour -	„ -	26,249	16,141	30,109
18	„ raw - -	„ -	—	—	—
19	Sharks' fins -	„ -	373	165	201
20	Tinder - -	„ -	141	—	—
21	Tortoise-shell -	„ -	1,423	1,687	1,629
22	Trepang - -	„ -	500	2,731	1,738
23	Specie - -	„ -	—	208	2,303
24	Miscellaneons -	„ -	585	656	410
	* Total by addition of details -		69,082	43,500	57,108
	* Total as given in Blue Books -		69,094	43,513	57,112

* The difference between these two totals is occasioned by the shillings and pence being omitted in the above details.

LONDON:
Printed by GEORGE E. EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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